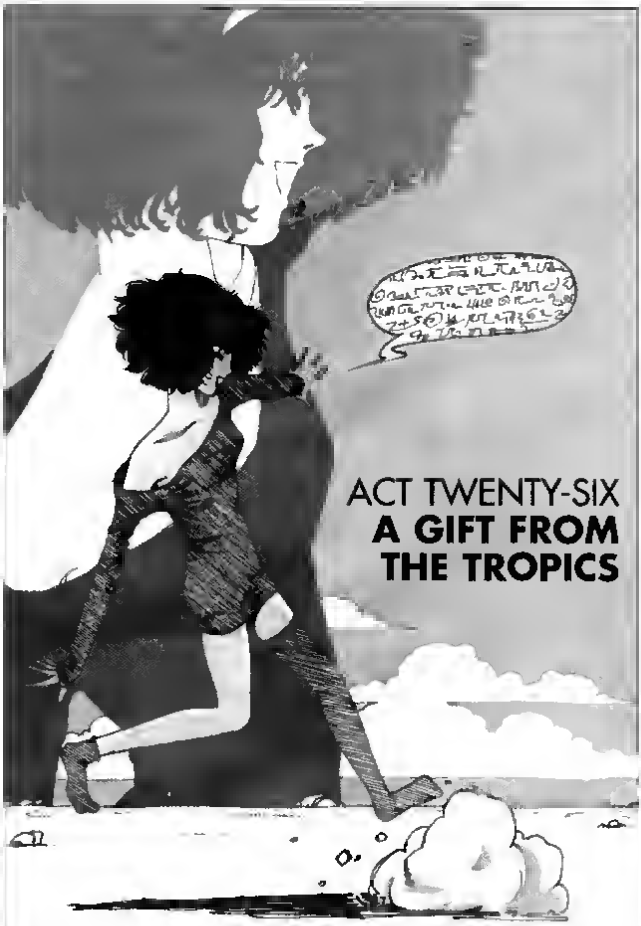


ACT TWENTY-SIX
A GIFT FROM THE TROPICS

THUNDER BURGER
THUNDER BURGER
OOPS!
SPLAK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HOW MANY TIMES DO I GOTTA TELL YOU!?
I-I'M SORRY
THUNDER BURGER
COME ON, HONEY HE'S STILL GETTING OVER HIS COLD
AND DON'T TOUCH YOUR HAIR WITH YOUR HANDS
THUNDER BURGER
OH, JUST GO HOME. YOU'RE USELESS TODAY.
I'M SORRY
I'M SORRY, TOO. IT'S THAT TIME OF THE MONTH FOR HER, Y'KNOW?
HERE-- TRY THIS
VEGGIE INGREDIENTS
THANKS.
S-U-E-K-I-C-H-I!
THUNDER

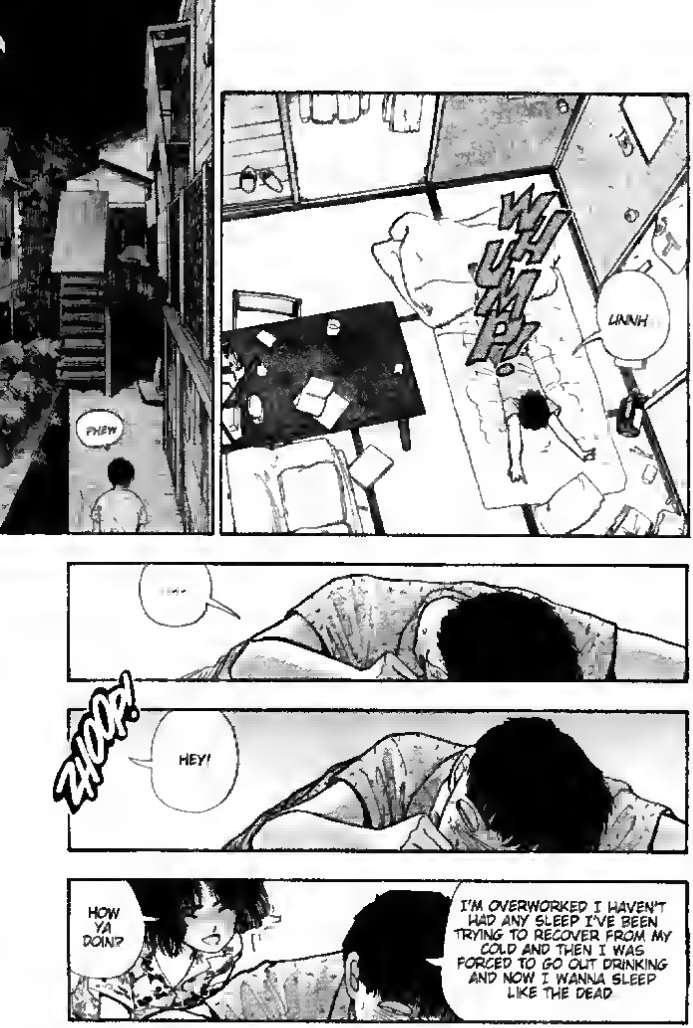
YO
WOW! I EVEN GET SPEED LINES!

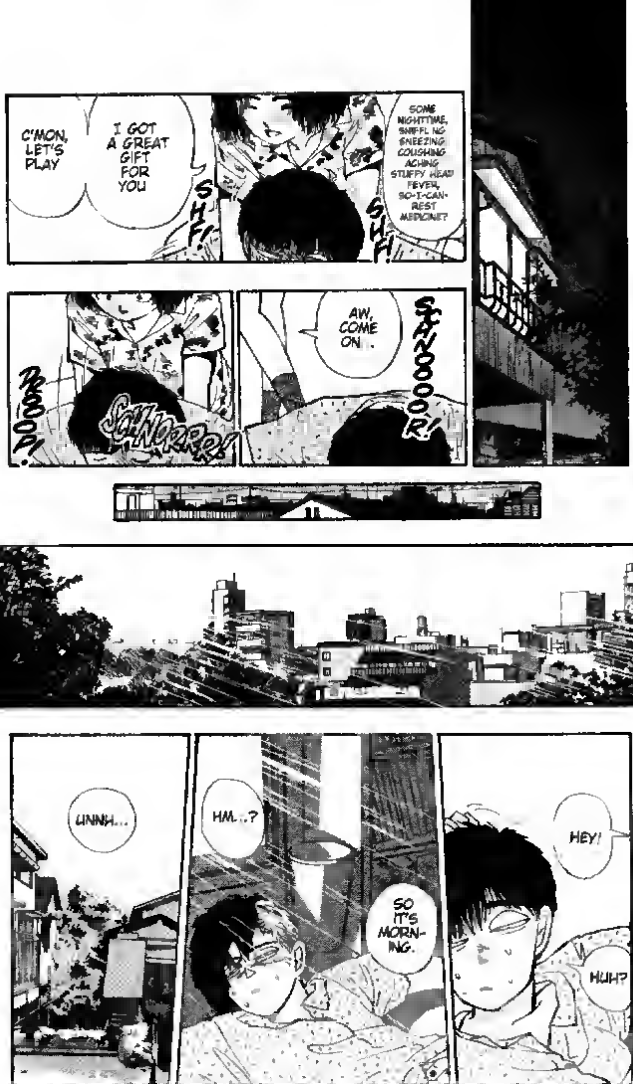
やきとり
YOU LOOK PEAKED SOMETHIN' BOTHERING YOU?
MAYBE IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH RECOVERING FROM A REALLY BAD COLD OR MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'VE BEEN ON MY FEET ALL MORNING ONLY TO GET MY HEAD BITTEN OFF FOR MESSING UP OR MAYBE I'M JUST TIRED AND HUNGRY AND DYING TO GO HOME AND TURN IN EARLY AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP WHEN SOMEONE DRAGS ME OUT DRINKING WITH HIM

WAS THAT A JAB?
YOU MUST'VE COOKED ALL THAT UP ON OUR WAY OVER HERE.

I HEAR THE TROUPE'S STARTING UP AGAIN
REALLY?

ONCE WE GET A FEW MORE MEMBERS
HOW ABOUT ANOTHER BEER?
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE JUST MOOCHING OFFA ME


PHEW
WHUMP!
UNNH
HEY!
HOW YA DOIN?
I'M OVERWORKED I HAVEN'T HAD ANY SLEEP I'VE BEEN TRYING TO RECOVER FROM MY COLD AND THEN I WAS FORCED TO GO OUT DRINKING AND NOW I WANNA SLEEP LIKE THE DEAD


C'MON, LET'S PLAY
I GOT A GREAT GIFT FOR YOU
SHF!
SHH!
SOME NIGHTTIME SNIFFL NG SNEEZING COUGHING ACHING STUFFY HEAD FEVER, SO-T-CAN-REST MEDICINE?
SCHNOOR!
AW, COME ON...
SCHNOOR!
UNNH...
HM..?
SO IT'S MORN-ING.
HEY!
HUH?

WHOA !!!
MOVE LEG, 'KAY?
GLNT
PUSSY.
CHK
WHO THE H-HELL IS THIS, AYA?
OH-- THIS FELLA?
THE GIFT I WAS TALKING ABOUT

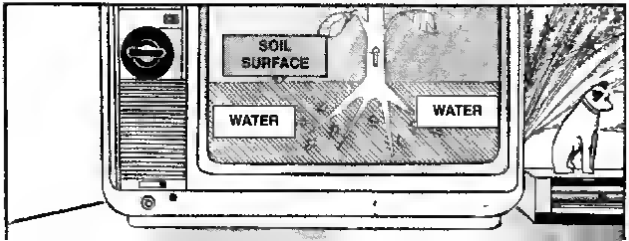
I WAS DRINKING IN THE SHINJUKU DISTRICT WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN I SEE HIM SITTING ON THE SIDE OF THE STREET.
HE'S FROM SOUTH-EAST ASIA.
HIS NAME'S FREDDY
HI, AYA
abldds

PUSSY
PUSSY
abldds

I TOLD HIM "PUSSY" IS HOW PEOPLE GREET EACH OTHER IN JAPAN
HA HA

I'M GOING TO WORK NOW, SO TAKE CARE OF FREDDY.
SEE YA, FREDDY. PUSSY.
H-HAVE A NICE DAY?
P-PUSSY.
abldds

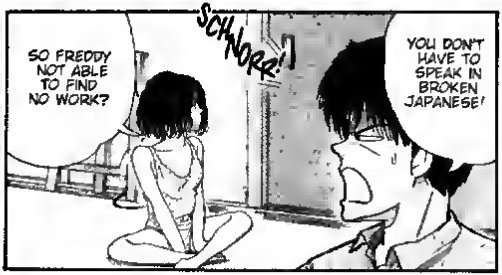
SLAMM!
PUSSY PUSSY
abldds


SOIL SURFACE
WATER
WATER

NOW WE WILL EXAMINE THE ROOTS OF THE TEETH
YIP!
YIP!
UM, I'M GOING TO SCHOOL NOW SO...
D-DON'T YOU HAVE A JOB, FREDDY?
WHAT?
UMM... AREN'T YOU WORKING?
"WORKING"? OH YES-- VERY "TO WORK."
YOU PROBABLY WANT TO GO OUT, TOO. TO FIND A JOB, PERHAPS?
YIP!
OH, WORK YES, YES! WANT TO WORK.
FWAK! FWAK!
abbb-

PUSH!!
I'M WIPED OUT...

SNURRRR

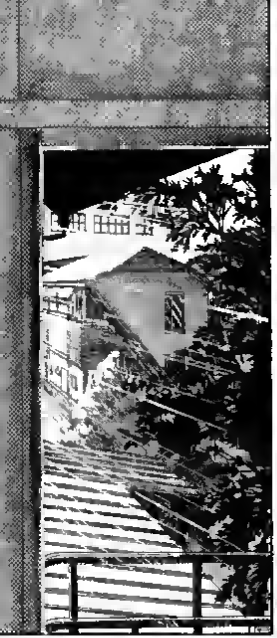

SCHNORR!
SO FREDDY NOT ABLE TO FIND NO WORK?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK IN BROKEN JAPANESE!

YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON LEAVING HIM HERE, ARE YOU?
HE'S GOT NOWHERE ELSE TO GO!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING! I CAN'T EVEN TALK TO HIM! IT'S CREEPING ME OUT NOT KNOWING WHAT HE'S THINKING
BE-SIDES...

...WE CAN'T DO IT?
D--DON'T BE SILLY
DON'T WORRY. HE WAS OUT WALKING ALL DAY. HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.
YOU JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR SKIN COLOR?
N--NO! IT'S JUST THAT--
DIDN'T THEY TEACH YOU ANY HISTORY?
HOW THE JAPANESE ARMY TREATED THE POPULATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR?
YOU MEAN THE PACIFIC WAR.
THERE YOU GO SPLITTING HAIRS.
NOT REALLY
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM THEN?
ME?
WHY SHOULD I?
AHH!

OHH...
SO SORRY. IN MY COUNTRY, I MUST FACE TO WEST AND PRAY THIS TIME DAY THREE MORE TIMES TO OUR GOD EVERY DAY, EVERYONE DO THIS
C-COULD YOU KEEP IT DOWN?
O-KAY.

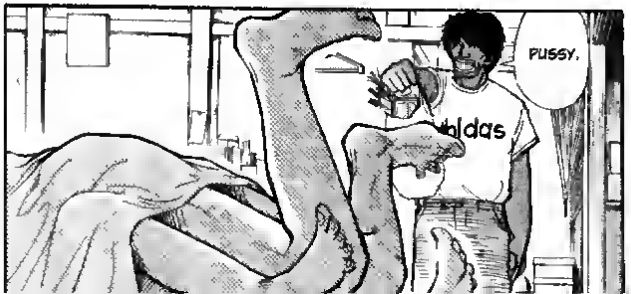


HM

HEY! FREDDY'S NOT AROUND
PROBABLY WENT FOR A WALK

YOU'RE UP EARLY

B-- BEFORE HE COMES BACK.
THIS EARLY?
AW, C'MON
YOU'RE SO HORNY
LOOK HOW WET YOU ARE
W-- WAIT
FSHH
SLOW MO 1/500 SEC
FSHH
AHH!


PUSSY.
adidas

CHAK!
HOME-STYLE COOKING
I USE INGRED-IENTS FROM HERE
IT'S DELICIOUS.
PHEW! BUT HOT
WHAT IS THIS IRON CHEF?*
HOW CAN YOU EAT THIS EVERY DAY?
MUCH MUNCH MUNCH
IRON CHEF
*A POPULAR JAPANESE TELEVISION PROGRAM IN WHICH FAMOUS CHEFS COMPETE AGAINST THE CLOCK
NO, NO. MEAT AND FISH. THIS IS CELE-BRATION CELE-BRATION DIFFERENT.
MY HOME POOR. MY COUNTRY POOR JAPANESE RICH, SO I COME
BUT HIS CONTACT IN JAPAN MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED!
WITHOUT ANY PLACE TO GO, FREDDY WANDERED AROUND THE WASTELAND OF TOKYO.
TED KOPPEL
GREG

WOW. THAT'S ROUGH.
YES. ROUGH. ROUGH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO REPEAT EVERYTHING!

BUT FROM NOW, I WORK VERY VERY HARD AND I BE RICH

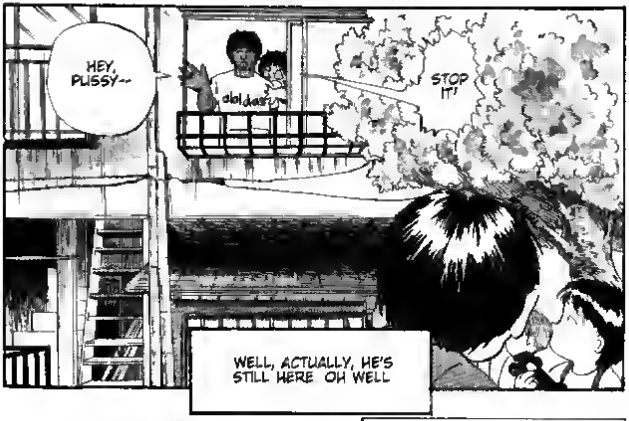
TH-THAT WALLET
OH, I FOUND IT THERE SO I USE IT.

JAPANESE MONEY VERY VERY EXPENSIVE IN MY COUNTRY I LIVE WHOLE MONTH WITH THAT MONEY.
AAARRGH!

YOU "FOUND IT" SO YOU JUST TOOK IT AND USED IT!?
THAT DOESN'T WORK HERE IN JAPAN, ALL RIGHT? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET BY THIS WEEK!?

OH

ME NO UNDERSTAND JAPANESE--
abldas
OH YEAH? RIGHT AFTER THAT SPEECH YOU JUST GAVE ALL IN JAPANESE!? RAARGGH!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT SHRUG!
CALM DOWN



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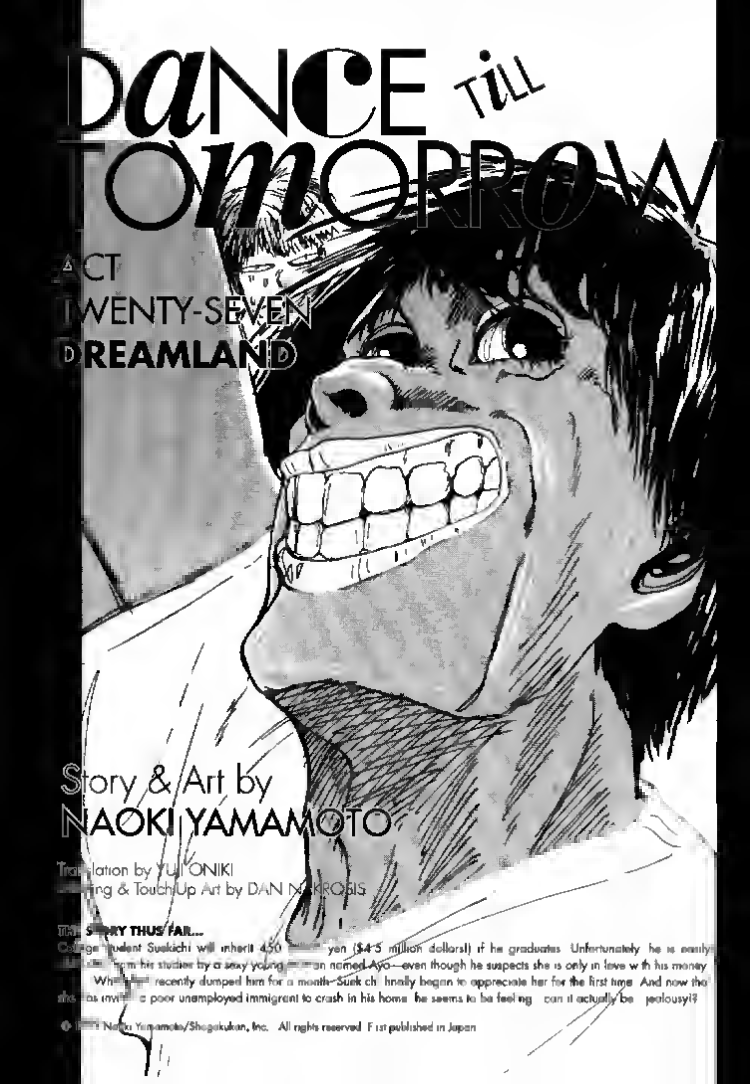
DANCE TILL TOMORROW
ACT
TWENTY-SEVEN
DREAMLAND
Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO
Translation by YUJI ONIKI
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS
THE STORY THUS FAR...
College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen ($4.5 million dollars) if he graduates. Unfortunately, he is nearly kicked from his studies by a sexy young woman named Ayo—even though he suspects she is only in love with his money. When Ayo recently dumped him for a month, Suekichi finally began to appreciate her for the first time. And now that she has invited a poor unemployed immigrant to crash in his home, he seems to be feeling... can it actually be... jealousy!?
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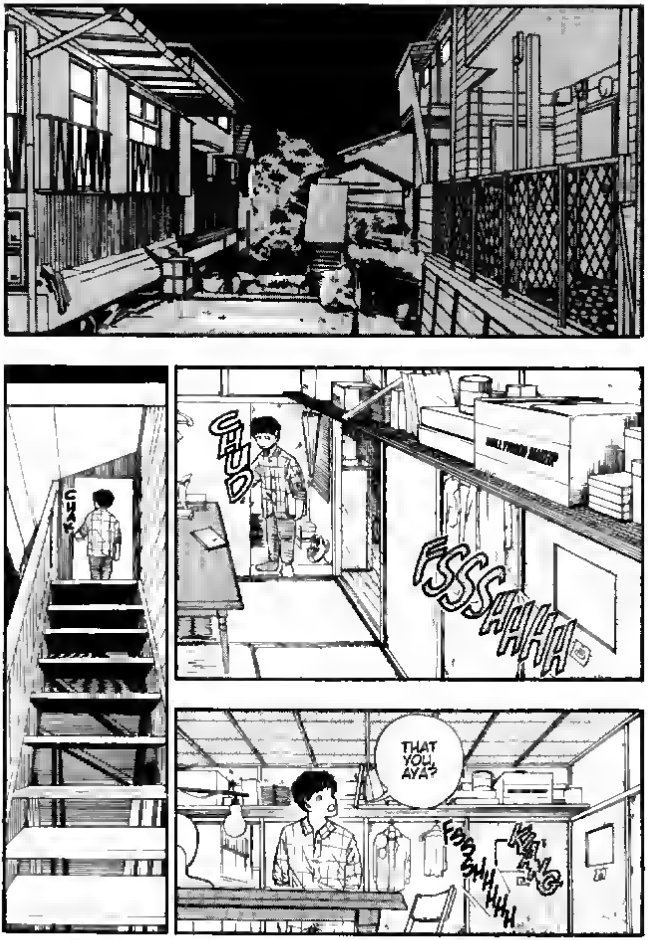

CHUD
FSSSHHHH
GIYA!
THAT YOU, AYA?
KSHAA!
FSSSHHHHH

IT IS ME
WHAT?
RLP! PLOP!
GET AWAY FROM ME!
YOU'RE ALL WET! STOP WALKING AROUND DRIPPING ALL OVER THE PLACE!
D-DRY YOURSELF YOU KNOW-- WITH A TOWEL YOU DRY SELF!
OKAY.
HE'S--
...HUGE!
OH!
DISSED! DISSED!

HEY THERE...

HUH?
H--HURRY! WHILE HE'S ASLEEP

WHY SO SUDDEN?
EVER SINCE FREDDY'S BEEN HERE, WE HAVEN'T.

HUH?

SO I'M JUST A SEX TOY TO YOU, HUH? YOU'RE JUST USING ME TO SATISFY YOUR PRIMAL URGES?
YOU ONLY WANT ME FOR MY BODY, SUEKICHI!
GIVE ME A BREAK

DON'T TOUCH ME!
ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT IS SEX!
GET OUT!
WHAT GO ON?
SH-SHE'S ACTUALLY CRYING...

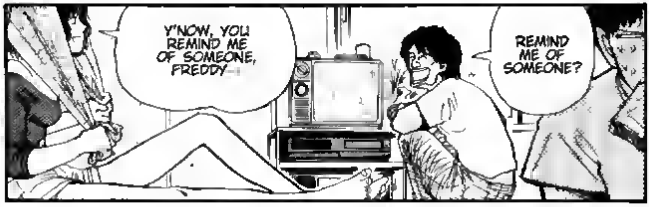
FREDDY !!
AYA...
YOU'RE SO MUCH BETTER.
HI, AYA.
AND YOU'RE SO MUCH BIGGER, TOO.
OHH.
OHH
S-- STOP IT...

BUT IT FEELS SO GOOD!
BETTER THAN SUEKICHI
I'M GOING TO BURST!
OHH...
GREAT!
AAARRGH!!
THAP THAP!!
THAP THAP THAP THAP
SQUIRT
W--WHAT A..
...NIGHTMARE
SQUIRT?

NEED A SHOWER REAL BAD!
WAS OUT BOOZIN' ALL NIGHT...
HEY AYA!
BROUGHT-CHA A PRESENT.

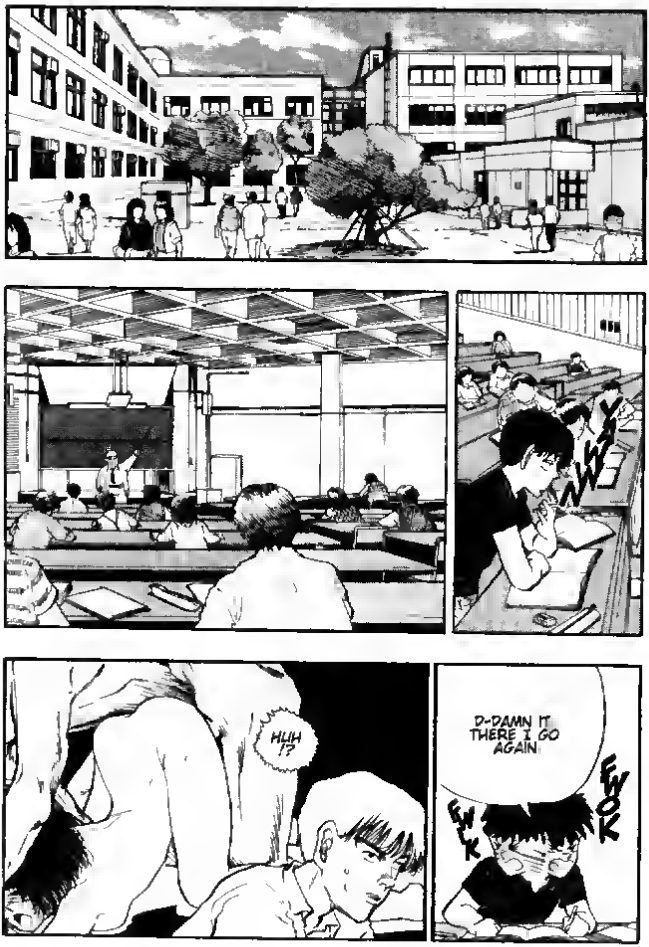
PUSSY.
PUSSY
SHAK!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO TELL HIM WHAT THAT WORD MEANS...
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU.


Y'NOW, YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE, FREDDY...
REMIND ME OF SOMEONE?

MICHAEL JACKSON. OR MAYBE MICHAEL TOMIOKA AND YOUR CHIN REMINDS ME OF . MICKEY ROURKE
REMINDS ME. REMINDS ME.
YEAH, RIGHT
WOW!!
YOUR EYES ARE BLUE . !
.....
MY GRAND-FATHER PORTU-GUESE.
THAT'S AMAZING
YOU PRETTY FACE ALSO, AYA
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ALSO"?
OH, THANK YOU! DON'T STOP NOW
F-- FO BIG!
.....

HEY, FREDDY-- WHY DON'T YOU GET A JOB INSTEAD OF SITTING AROUND MY APARTMENT WATCHING TV ALL THE TIME?
HEY, AYA-- AREN'T YOU GOING TO BE LATE FOR WORK?
I TRY GET WORK, NO CAN FIND JOB
HOW HARD ARE YOU TRYING?
AREN'T YOU BEING A BIT HARSH?
I'M JUST TELLING IT HOW IT IS.
OH, I GET IT... YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS CAUSE I'M MAKING A FUSS OVER FREDDY.
JEALOUS, JEALOUS.
D-DON'T BE RIDICULOUS GIVE ME A BREAK!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ONLY 17... YOU'RE SO MATURE!
IN MY COUNTRY, 17 IS ADULT.
I--I'M OFF TO SCHOOL.
I CAN'T DEAL WITH YOU GUYS.
ALWAYS EXPLAINING HIMSELF..
HU HUH, HU HUH


HUH!?
D-DAMN IT THERE I GO AGAIN!
FWOK
FWOK

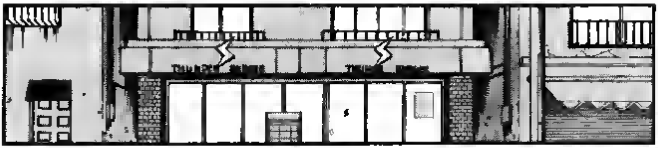
EVEN SOMEONE LIKE AYA WOULDN'T DO IT...
WITH A COMPLETE STRANGER
URK!
YOU ANIMAL
BUT I WAS...
A COM-PLETE STRAN-GER!
THIS IS SUEKICHI
HMM!?
THIS IS PATHETIC. I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING ALL WORKED UP OVER HER.
SHE WAS ONLY AFTER MY INHERITANCE IN THE FIRST PLACE--
HA
HA HA
HEY, SUE-KICHI!
WANNA PLAY POKER WITH US?
THREE CARD STUD
WHILE SUEKICHI'S OUT...
MAYBE THEY'RE ...
...DOING IT RIGHT NOW!
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
POKER IS FUN.
HMM.
HMM.
HMM.
NAH...

TUMPA TUMPA TUMPA
M--MY BRAIN HURTS.
TUMPA TUMPA TUMPA
HA HA HA
I SHOULD GO HOME AND REST
I WORK VERY HARD.
LOTTA FOREIGNERS LIKE HIM LATELY.
WHY?
HAIR
DRY CLEANING
SORRY, BUT WE'RE A DELIVERY SERVICE. YOU HAVE TO HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE TO..
I WORK VERY HARD VERY HARD
DRY CLEANING
BREAD
BREAD
THAT'LL BE 288 YEN, PLEASE

PULP
adidas
SLURP
MUNCH
YUM! YUM!
mnch mnch mnch
AFTER EATING HIS DINNER IN A PARK IN HIS DREAM-LAND...
FWEE FWEE
FREDDY BEGAN WHISTLING OUT OF TUNE.

THAT'S A NICE MELODY
IS IT FROM YOUR COUNTRY?
UH-UH. IT NEW HIT BY SPICE GIRLS.
I LIKE ONE WITH GYM OUTFIT
YOU UNHIP.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW!?
TV JUNKIE!
NO LUCK, HUH?
I NO CAN DRIVE, NO CAN READ I ON TOURIST VISA. NO PLACE HIRE ME
300 YEN I BORROW FROM AYA I SPEND ON LUNCH
I LIVE FROM 300 YEN FOR WEEK IN MY COUNTRY.
JAPAN MY DREAMLAND. MAKE MONEY, GO HOME RICH MAN
I DREAM I WORK MUCH IN TOKYO, MAKE MUCH MONEY, GO HOME RICH... BUT...
adidas

VERY HARD GET RICH!
MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING, THOUGH.
MONEY NOT IMPORT-ANT?
SAD TO BE POOR. NO MONEY, YOU DIE HUNGER
I NO GIVE UP. I FIND JOB, I BE RICH.

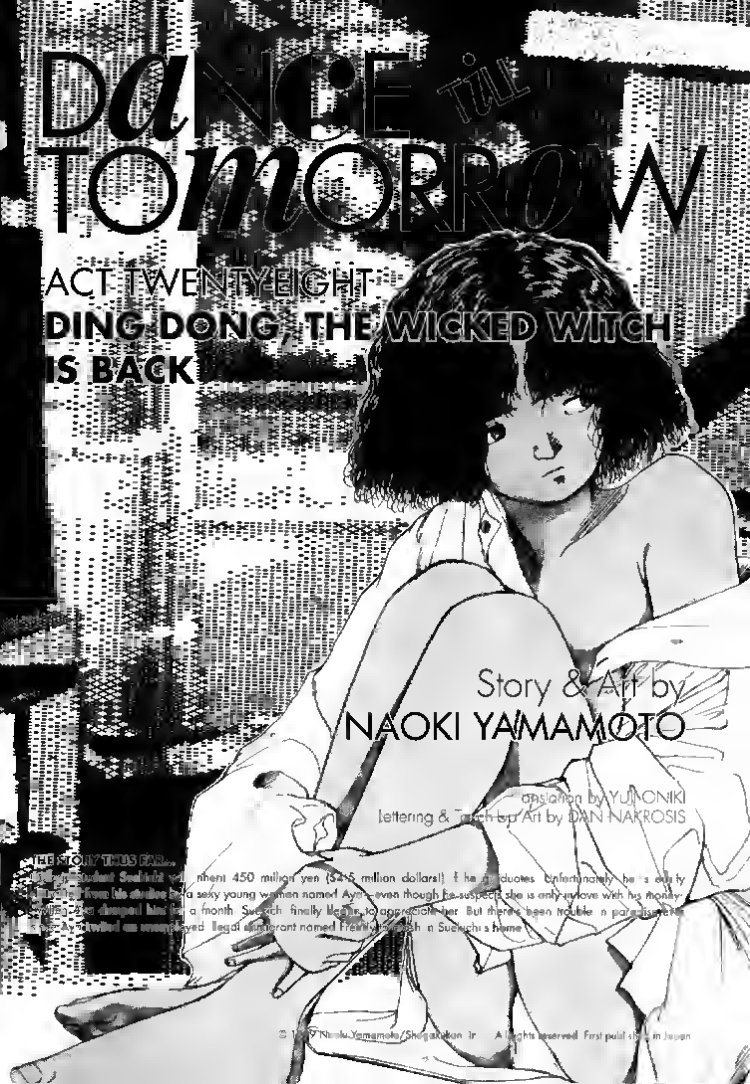


I SEE, I SEE. ALL ALONE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. WHAT COURAGE! HOW BRAVE YOU ARE!
I'M A SUCKER FOR A SOB STORY LIKE THAT!
THUND
BURGE
SO YOU'LL HIRE HIM?
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR STRONG YOUNG MEN LIKE HIM.
I WORK VERY HARD
ALL RIGHT!
HOW I LOOK?
THE FIRST THING YOU NEED TO LEARN IS TO ALWAYS GREET YOUR CUSTOMER WITH A BIG SMILE!
OKAY, SIR!
SMILE! GREET CUSTOMER
GRIN

PUSSY!
heh!
NICE PUNCH LINE
THUNDER BURGER
TO BE CONTINUED!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT TWENTYEIGHT
DING DONG, THE WICKED WITCH IS BACK



Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

adaptation by YUMONIKI
lettering & Touch-up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

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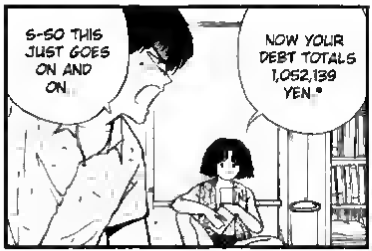
CHIRP

WHERE'S FREDDY?

OUT WITH HIS FRIENDS
"FRIENDS"?
SAYS HE FINALLY FOUND SOME FRIENDS FROM HIS NATIVE COUNTRY

BUMMER

AYA
OH-- YOU GOT PAID?


S-SO THIS JUST GOES ON AND ON...
NOW YOUR DEBT TOTALS 1,052,139 YEN.*

*ABOUT $11,000

WHAT ARE WE DOING EXACTLY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

HIBINO.
WHAT?

YOU ONLY COME HERE 'CAUSE YOU'RE AFTER MY INHERITANCE.
OF COURSE YOU DENY THAT AND COME UP WITH THIS ROUND-ABOUT STORY ABOUT. UH. LET'S SEE, HOW DOES IT GO...? UMM...

SO WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO, GOT TO DO WITH IT?
WHO NEEDS A HEART WHEN A HEART CAN BE BROKEN.
Y'KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT SHE MEANT BY THAT...

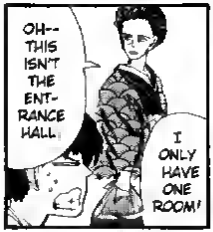
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH WHAT?

DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
FREDDY'LL BE HOME ANY SECOND
TUP TUP
CHAK!
SEE?

GOOD EVENING.

YOU BITCH! HOW'D YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
OH-- MUNAKATA MUST'VE TOLD YOU.
UMM...
TupTupTupTupTupTup

THOOP


OH-- THIS ISN'T THE ENT-RANCE HALL.
I ONLY HAVE ONE ROOM!

AYA...
GO HOME!
I HEARD YOU DON'T GET HOME MUCH THESE DAYS

I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE LIVING IN SUCH SQUALOR SINCE THE DIVORCE.

I BET YOU'VE BEEN SPREADING MALICIOUS GOSSIP ALL OVER MY NEIGHBORHOOD
I ONLY HAVE YOUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART.
FWOOSH
DON'T THINK I'M JUST BEING NOSY.
I AM SIMPLY CONCERNED ABOUT YOU INTRUDING ON MY NARUHITO'S PRIVACY, GIVEN YOUR PREDILECTION FOR RECKLESS BEHAVIOR.
THANKS, BUT I DON'T NEED YOUR LECTURES.
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVED THIS
FWOK!
SWOOP!
SO THIS IS YOUR NEW HUSBAND TO BE?
CONGRATULATIONS I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR HAPPINESS

PULP
CHUD
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS!?

D-DON'T LOOK
Like peas in a pod!
WOW!
I KEEP FORGETTING YOU USED TO BE MARRIED
JUST FOR THREE MONTHS
MRS.--
SHADDUP
OOP!
SO HERE WE GO AGAIN, HUH?
ANY OBJEC-TIONS?

PUSSY!

BRING FRIENDS!
abldas

YOU'RE DRUNK!
ALL FRIENDS, VERY FUN
AYA LOOKING LESS FUN WHY?
WELL...
RA
RA

SO BAD PERSON VISIT YOU?
HE SEZ HE KILL BAD PERSON FOR JUST ONE MILLION YEN.
H-HEY .
abk
abldas
MAYBE I SHOULD CONSIDER IT.
H-HOLD ON!
HAHAHA
HAHAHA
IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT! COULD YOU PLEASE KEEP IT DOWN .?
NO UNDER-STAND JAPANESE.
YOU PERV--
WHOA!

SHUT THE HELL UP!!
IT'S LATE !!

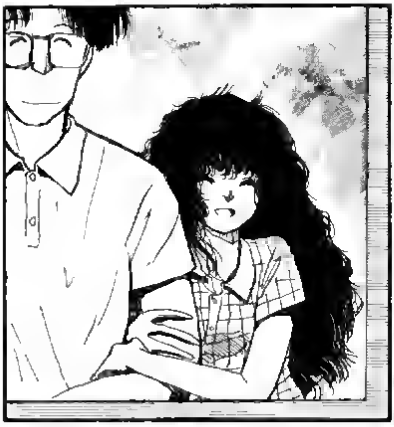
OH NO!
IT TIME FOR PRAY!

วเลื่อนฟิล์มต่อไปเรื่อย ๆ จนกว่า
จะเห็นชื่อและขนาดของฟิล์มที่
ร้อนในหนูกรอกลังกล้องเนะ!

I-I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...
I'M THE ONE WHO GETS IN TROUBLE WHEN YOU MAKE A RUCKUS LIKE THAT! IT'S NOT LIKE YOU OWN YOUR APART-MENT..
DON'T TELL ME THAT WEIRD FOREIGNER IS LIVING WITH YOU?
OH NO, NOT AT ALL...
Gulp!
MAKES ME SICK JUST KNOWING THERE'S FOREIGNERS IN MY BUILDING

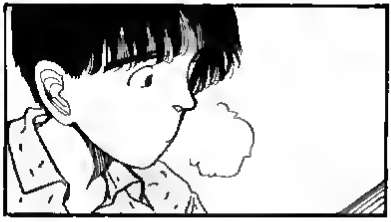
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO RETURN HOME A SUCCESS-- A RICH MAN!
YOU WERE GOING TO WORK HARD AND SAVE MONEY
BUT EVERY TIME YOU GET PAID, YOU BLOW ALL YOUR DOUGH ON BEER AND FRIENDS
YOU RIGHT I CHANGE MY WAY
I GO TO WORK EARLY TO MAKE UP.
I'M GOING TO WORK TOO.
THAT'S ALL IT TAKES?
GLINT

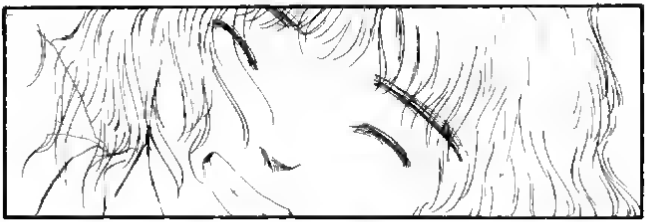
WHAT A PIG STY
BET SOME STUFF'S MISSING, TOO..
WRECK
EVER SINCE HIBINO CAME, ALL THESE WEIRD PEOPLE KEEP SHOWING UP.
I-I GOTTA CLEAN UP...
MKH

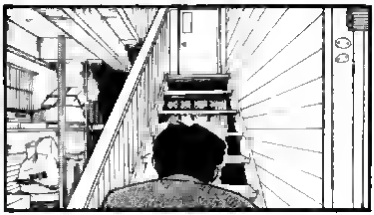


TSK

JUST FOR THREE MONTHS





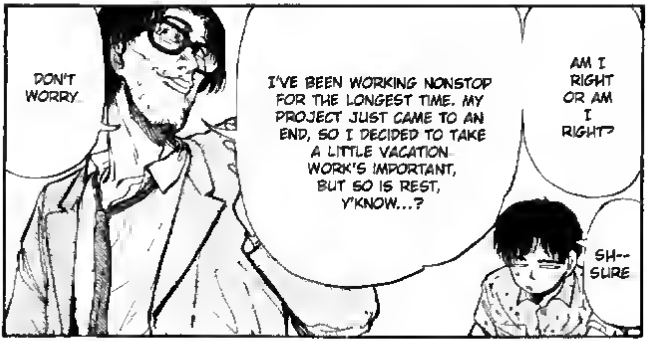


AYA ARE YOU HERE?

ACT TWENTY-NINE
MEMORY LANE

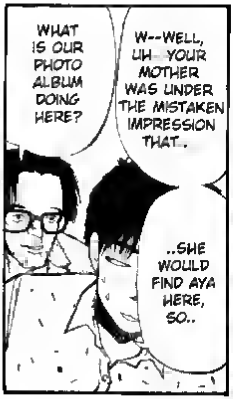
HAH!
I RE-MEMBER THIS ONE!
THAT WAS THE TIME AYA POINTED THE GARDEN HOSE AT A BEEHIVE AND--Y'KNOW--IT FELL DOWN ON US AND--

EXCUSE ME..
YE-E-S?
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?
N--NEVER MIND
YOU MUST BE WONDERING IF..
N--NO.
I CAN TELL BY THE WAY YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME
I'M ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE
I BARGE INTO YOUR PLACE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY
AND YOU'RE THINKING, "WHAT'S THIS GUY DOING HERE? WHAT'S HE WANT? HE NEEDS A SHAVE"
N--NOT AT ALL.


DON'T WORRY.
I'VE BEEN WORKING NONSTOP FOR THE LONGEST TIME. MY PROJECT JUST CAME TO AN END, SO I DECIDED TO TAKE A LITTLE VACATION. WORK'S IMPORTANT, BUT SO IS REST, Y'KNOW...?
AM I RIGHT OR AM I RIGHT?
SH--SURE

OF COURSE, I AM.
WOW! I REMEMBER THAT DAY TOO

BY THE WAY...

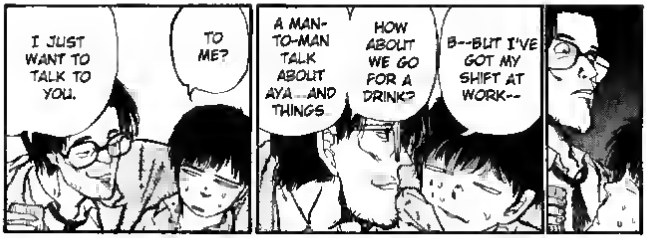

WHAT IS OUR PHOTO ALBUM DOING HERE?
W--WELL, UH... YOUR MOTHER WAS UNDER THE MISTAKEN IMPRESSION THAT..
..SHE WOULD FIND AYA HERE, SO..

MOM IS A NUTCASE. I TOOK THIS EXTENDED VACATION WITHOUT GIVING ANY NOTICE. BUT I HAVEN'T GONE ANYWHERE. I JUST SIT AROUND THE HOUSE AND THEN I WANDER THE STREETS LIKE SOME HOMELESS GUY.
BUT, YOU SEE, I NEVER LIKED TO DO THE OBVIOUS THINGS FOR VACATIONS.
I LIKE SITTING AND WANDERING AROUND.

I'M TIRED. I SHOULD SHUT UP.
DO YOU HAVE ANY TEA?
U-UH YEAH JUST A SEC.

I WONDER WHERE AYA IS
I *TOLD* YOU, SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE IN A WHILE.

"IN A WHILE"?
W--WELL, SHE CAME BY YESTERDAY, BUT IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME AND THEN SHE SAID SHE WAS NEVER GOING TO COME OVER AGAIN.
REALLY?
YES, REALLY



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE LIGHTING ASSISTANT!

HELLO, EVERY-BODY
OH, IT'S YOU, FREDDY. LISTEN.
OH, SUEKICHI! WHAT IS MATTER?

T--TELL THE BOSS I'M SICK, SO I NEED TO GET THE DAY OFF...
YOU SICKO, NEED GET OFF
N--NO, THAT'S NOT IT...

J--JUST TELL HIM I CAN'T COME TO WORK, ALL RIGHT?

HE WON'T LET YOU?
N--NOT EXACTLY.
SO WHAT I SAY?

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO PRESSURE YOU INTO THIS.
WELL, THAT'S THAT THEN-- READY TO GO?

THUNDER BURGER
PUSSY!
HEY, AYA PUSSY!
SUEKICHI ISN'T HERE?
YES, SUEKICHI SICK, SO NO COME HERE
THUNDER BURGER
THAT'S NO GOOD.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THUNDER BURGER

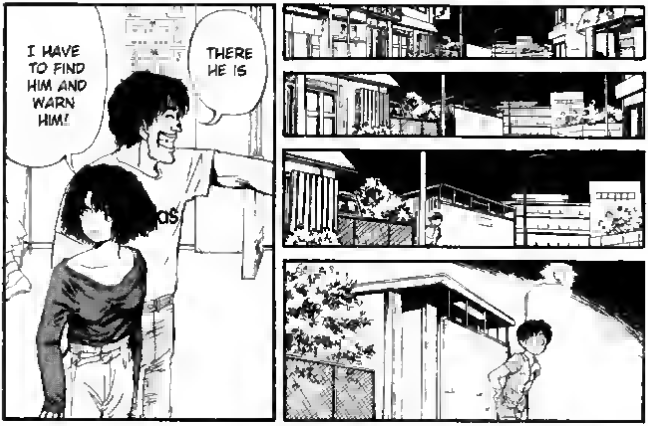
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT AYA IS TO ME

WHEN WE WERE MARRIED, I CONSIDERED IT MY MISSION IN LIFE TO PROTECT HER.
YOU'RE SPILLING SAUCE ON THE PHOTOS

WHERE'S YOUR BATHROOM?
OUTSIDE... AROUND BACK...

WHP WHP

WHERE IS HE?
adidas


I HAVE TO FIND HIM AND WARN HIM!
THERE HE IS

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
HUH?
EAGLE EYE.
I GOT 20/15 VISION.
adidas

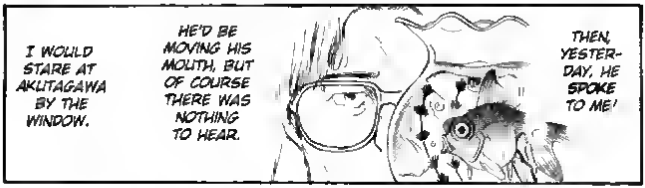
I GOT A LITTLE CONCERNED, SO I CALLED HOME, JUST IN CASE, AND IT TURNS OUT THAT OLD BITCH WAS THERE.
APPARENTLY, NARUHITO HASN'T BEEN GOING TO WORK HE JUST STAYS IN HIS ROOM ALL DAY
THEN, YESTERDAY, HE JUST DISAPPEARED

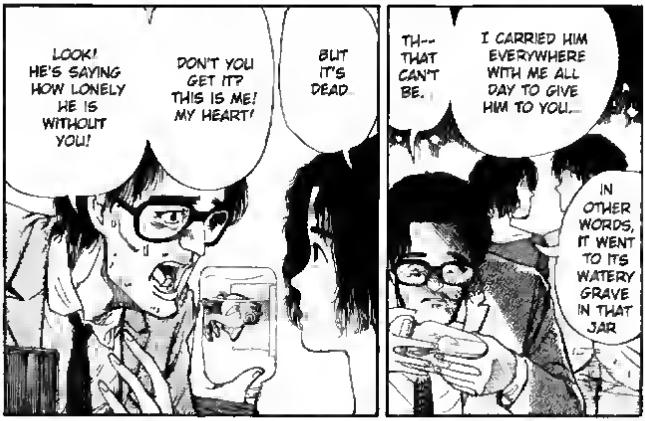
THE OLD BAG WAS LOOKING FOR HIM LAST NIGHT.
HE'S IN THERE. WE WERE DRINKING TOGETHER.
BUT HE CAN'T DRINK!
HE'S ALREADY HAD FIVE SHOTS
UH-OH
EH?

BAM!

P--PLEASE AYA--COME BACK!
GIVE IT UP.
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
I-I WANTED TO GIVE THIS TO YOU.
REMEMBER? AKUTAGAWA, THE BUG-EYED GOLDFISH YOU LOVED SO MUCH.
Sob!
I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE IT.
YOU KNOW HOW YOU JUST TOOK OFF, LEAVING EVERYTHING BEHIND..?

I REMEMBER THE NIGHT AKUTAGAWA BECAME A PART OF OUR LIVES... THAT UNFORGET-TABLE NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE FESTIVAL...
SINCE WE WERE LITTLE KIDS WE SCOOPED UP GOLDFISH AT THAT FESTIVAL. BUT NONE OF THEM LIVED AS LONG AS AKUTAGAWA.


I WOULD STARE AT AKUTAGAWA BY THE WINDOW.
HE'D BE MOVING HIS MOUTH, BUT OF COURSE THERE WAS NOTHING TO HEAR.
THEN, YESTER-DAY, HE SPOKE TO ME!


LOOK! HE'S SAYING HOW LONELY HE IS WITHOUT YOU!
DON'T YOU GET IT? THIS IS ME! MY HEART!
BUT IT'S DEAD...
TH--THAT CAN'T BE.
I CARRIED HIM EVERYWHERE WITH ME ALL DAY TO GIVE HIM TO YOU...
IN OTHER WORDS, IT WENT TO ITS WATERY GRAVE IN THAT JAR

COME BACK, AKITA-GAWA!!
LET'S GO.
WAIT!!
IT'S JUST THAT... WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR SO LONG.
I HAVE TO HAVE YOU, AYA. OR ELSE...
I'M SORRY... I'M BEING OVER-DRAMATIC.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I...
YOU ALWAYS HATED DRAMA IN SCHOOL...

PULP

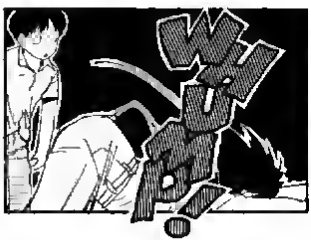
"OR ELSE" WHAT?

HEY, GIVE THE GUY A BREAK.
HE'S POURING HIS HEART OUT
YEAH, WELL, LIFE WOULD BE EASY IF ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS POUR YOUR HEART OUT

HEY!
OR ELSE... I'LL KILL MYSELF!

FREDDY, GIVE IT TO HIM.
OKAY
H-- HEY

adidas
GULP

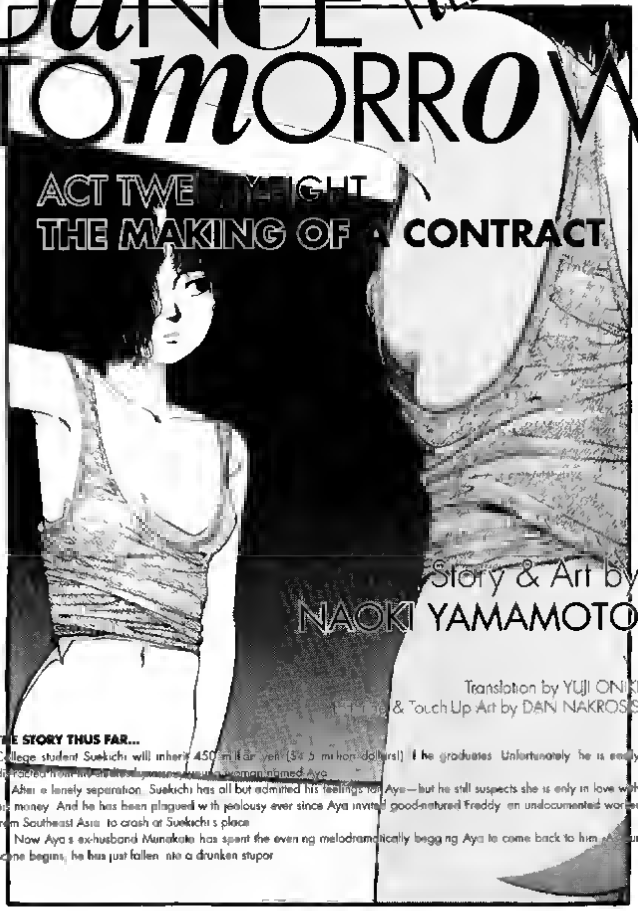

WHIP!

IS HE.. D-- DEAD?
FROM A GOLDFISH?
HE'S JUST SICK FROM DRINKING.

S-SO THE TWO OF YOU HAVE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE CHILDHOOD?
SPRIP
SPRIP

WE WERE ENGAGED ...
SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
TO BE CONTINUED!!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW



ACT TWENTY-EIGHT
THE MAKING OF A CONTRACT

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by YUJI ONISHI
Lettering & Touch Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen! (3.5 million dollars!) if he graduates. Unfortunately he is easily distracted from his studies by his roommate, the unemployed Aya.

After a lonely separation, Suekichi has all but admitted his feelings for Aya—but he still suspects she is only in love with his money. And he has been plagued with jealousy ever since Aya invited good-natured Freddy, an undocumented worker from Southeast Asia, to crash at Suekichi's place.

Now Aya's ex-husband Munakata has spent the evening melodramatically begging Aya to come back to him. As the scene begins, he has just fallen into a drunken stupor.

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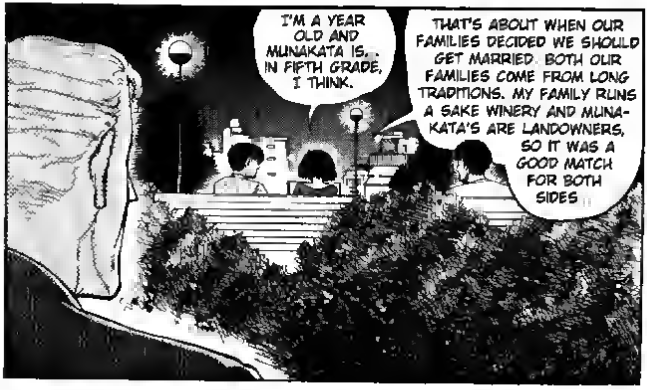
THIS IS THE FIRST PHOTO OF US


I'M A YEAR OLD AND MUNAKATA IS, . IN FIFTH GRADE, I THINK.
THAT'S ABOUT WHEN OUR FAMILIES DECIDED WE SHOULD GET MARRIED. BOTH OUR FAMILIES COME FROM LONG TRADITIONS. MY FAMILY RUNS A SAKE WINERY AND MUNAKATA'S ARE LANDOWNERS, SO IT WAS A GOOD MATCH FOR BOTH SIDES

I JUST LET THE TIME PASS..
EIGHTEEN YEARS...
WE LIVED IN TOKYO, A MODERN CITY, BUT ON THE OUTSKIRTS...
SUBURBS
I GUESS THAT KIND OF THING ISN'T SO UNCOMMON EVEN NOW.
SO YOU REBELLED AGAINST YOUR PARENTS?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
I TOLD YOU, I JUST WATCHED THE TIME PASS.

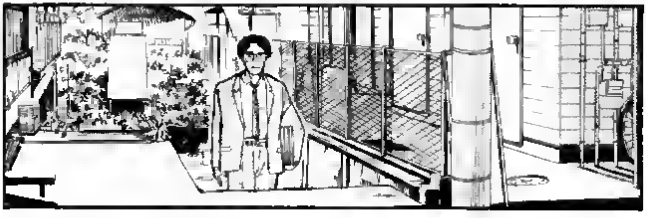
IN THE END, THOUGH, I GUESS I DID END UP REBELLING.
MUNAKATA NEVER TREATED ME LIKE A WOMAN.
HE JUST THOUGHT OF ME AS A LITTLE SISTER TO PROTECT.
AND THE OLD LADY WAS A PAIN IN THE BUTT, TOO, I BET.
YEAH. SHE WAS HARD TO DEAL WITH.
AYA--
WHOA!
GO SNOOZE SOME MORE.
SWISH
WHAP!

DO YOU KNOW WHY I'M TELLING YOU THIS TONIGHT?
HUH?
SHOOT
BE-CAUSE IT'S OVER.
I WANT YOU TO SEE THAT I DON'T FEEL A THING FOR MUNAKATA ANYMORE, NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS.
BUT MUNAKATA DOESN'T THINK IT'S OVER.
HE'S START-ING TO GET THE HINT.
HIS SPIRIT TAKEN AWAY.
HUH?
HE NO CAN GET OUT OF CIRCLE HE MAKE AROUND HIMSELF --SO HE SPIN TILL HIS SOUL IT MELT LIKE BUTTER.
SOMEONE LIKE HIM LIVE IN MY VILLAGE. HE RUN INTO FOREST. NEVER COME BACK.
YOU KNOW SO MUCH!
MY GRANDMA WAS HEALER.

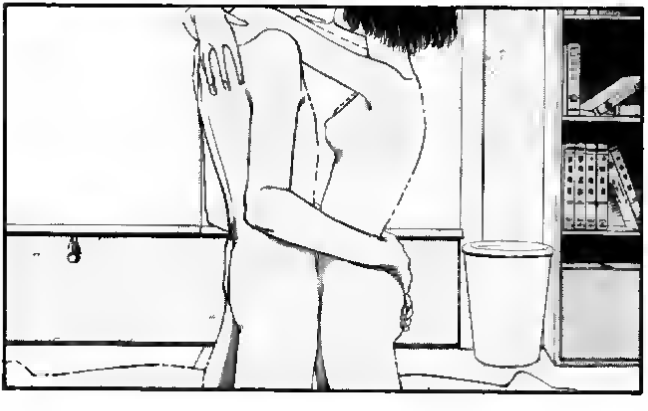
ZZZZZ
YOU'RE UP ALREADY?
I JUST WOKE UP.

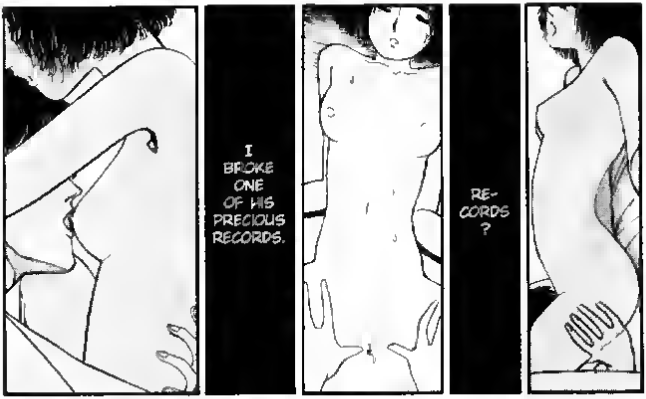
YESTERDAY WAS INTENSE
ZOOP!
Y-- YES?
MUST GO TO WORK...
ZIP
BUT IT'S SUNDAY...
CHILD!
YO!
I WORK EARLY-BIRDIE SHIFT TOO.
bidas

CHUD
I'VE GOT HOME-WORK...
COME ON-- IT'S SUNDAY.
YOU'RE BEING SO DIS-TANT...
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE WE'VE BEEN ALONE TOGETHER!
YEAH, BUT...
LOOK...



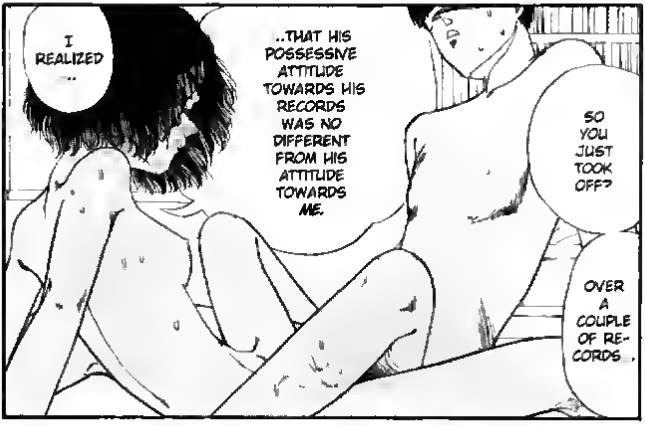
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.



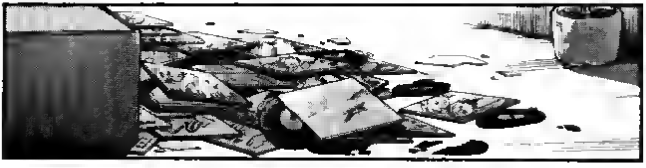

I BROKE ONE OF HIS PRECIOUS RECORDS.
RE-CORDS ?

AND THEN SHE LEFT ME
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THAT AYA WAS 100 TIMES MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN MY RECORD COLLECTION.

SO IT'S MY UNDER-STANDING THAT..
YOU WISH TO WIN HER BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO BEGIN BUILDING A NEW LIFE TOGETHER.


I REALIZED ..
..THAT HIS POSSESSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIS RECORDS WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS ME.
SO YOU JUST TOOK OFF?
OVER A COUPLE OF RE-CORDS.

NAH. I BROKE THEM ALL.

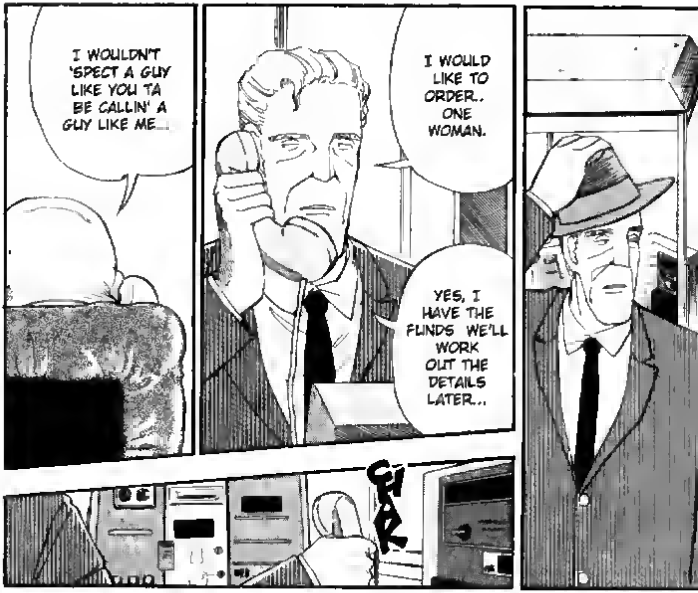


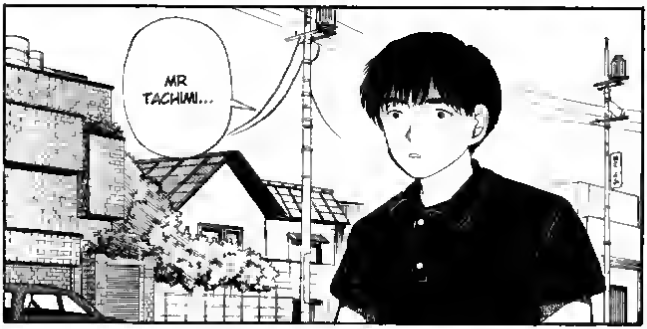
SO WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST.
IT IS MY GOAL TO ENSURE THAT AYA CUT HER TIES WITH SUEKICHI FOREVER, AND IT IS YOUR GOAL TO RETRIEVE HER.

BUT WHAT WOULD TEAR THEM APART?
I HAVE AN IDEA...
WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
UM... THE COND--
DON'T WORRY...
..YOU CAN COME INSIDE ME
SIMPLY PUT...
I'M RETAINED TO ACT AS HIS GUARDIAN

IT'S STILL COMING OUT..
SHOOSH
NOW THEN
I FEEL DIZZY.
WHAT'S UP?

THEY'RE FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY SO I COULDN'T VERY WELL HIDE OUT AT HOME.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU CAME HERE?
HEY! NO TICK-LING!
SO YOU DIDN'T CARE WHERE YOU ENDED UP?
OR ARE YOU MAKING THIS UP AS YOU GO ALONG?
BUT HOW'D YOU END UP AT THE FUNERAL?
I FELT IT WAS MY DUTY, AS YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S NEIGH-BOR.
HELLO, TACHIMI HERE.
YES, THAT TACHIMI. IT'S BEEN A WHILE...


I WOULDN'T 'SPECT A GUY LIKE YOU TA BE CALLIN' A GUY LIKE ME...
I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER.. ONE WOMAN.
YES, I HAVE THE FUNDS WE'LL WORK OUT THE DETAILS LATER..
CLICK


MR TACHIMI...

I WAS IN THE VICINITY ON AN ASSIGN-MENT...
I DROPPED BY LAST NIGHT, BUT...
I WAS OUT.
SUE-KICHI.
UH-HUH?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO IS TRULY CONCERNED WITH YOUR WELFARE.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
HUH?
GOOD-BYE, THEN.
HEY! WHY'DJA MAKE ME HIDE!?
TO BE CONTINUED!!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT THIRTY-ONE
FIRST CONTACT

THE STORY THUS FAR...
College student Soshichi will inherit 400 million yen ($4.5 million dollars) if he graduates. Unfortunately, he is easily distracted from his studies by a sexy young woman named Aya, even though he suspects she is only in love with his money. Soshichi's lawyer, the manager of his trust fund, doesn't [illegible] to suspect it—he's courteous!

Aya has just finally revealed the complete story of her loveless arranged marriage to [illegible] an older man who has been begging her to return to him. Do you think Soshichi's lawyer and [illegible]'s ex-[illegible] have discovered their common interest in separating the scandalous loving [illegible] couple and have been plotting diabolically scheme to destroy their [illegible] forever...?

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by YUJI ONIKI
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

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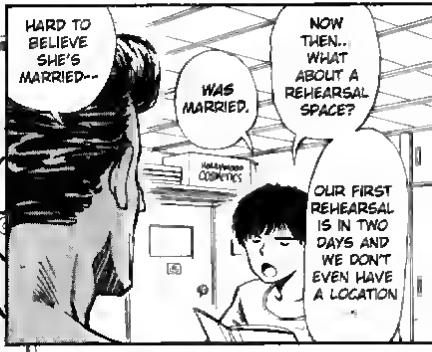
IT'S BOILING OUT!
I NEED TO USE YOUR--
HUH?
WOW! SUEKICHI-- HOW YOU'VE GROWN.
THE BETTER TO HOLD YOU IN MY LAP, MY DEAR.
COME HERE, PUMPKIN
AND YOUR CHIN'S GOTTEN LONGER.
THE BETTER TO NIBBLE ON YOUR NIPPLES, MY DEAR.
AND SO HAS YOUR--
THE BETTER TO--

DON'T LET ME GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR LITTLE CHARADE..
AW, COME ON! (WE'RE JUST KIDDING AROUND)
HI, AYA LONG TIME NO SEE--
HELLO WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING SITTING AROUND IN THIS HEAT?
PLANNING OUR NEXT PERFORM-ANCE
NONE OF YOUR BEES-WAX.
ANOTHER TRASHY OUTFIT FAWN HERE.

I THOUGHT EVERY-ONE BAILED.
WE'RE MAKING A COMEBACK.
GO TAKE YOUR BATH.

OKAY.
CLOSE THE DOOR!
CHUD!


HARD TO BELIEVE SHE'S MARRIED--
WAS MARRIED.
NOW THEN.. WHAT ABOUT A REHEARSAL SPACE?
OUR FIRST REHEARSAL IS IN TWO DAYS AND WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A LOCATION

BUT SHE STILL GOES BY THE LAST NAME MUNAKATA, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW
THE LAST PLACE CIRCULATED A NOTICE ABOUT THAT LITTLE FIRE THAT BROKE OUT, SO NO PUBLIC FACILITY WILL ACCEPT US
SOMEONE'S WIFE... THAT'S SO KINKY.
BUT A STUDIO WOULD COST AN ARM AND A LEG.
PUTTING ON THAT INNOCENT ACT, BUT DEEP DOWN INSIDE YOU'RE A SEX MACHINE IS THAT WHAT TURNS HER ON?
ENOUGH ALREADY.
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU TWO ARE TALKING ABOUT?
GO TAKE YOUR BATH
I'M WAITING FOR THE TUB TO FILL UP
I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE TALKING ABOUT FINDING A REHEARSAL SPACE.
GOT ANY LEADS?
DON'T TRUST HER

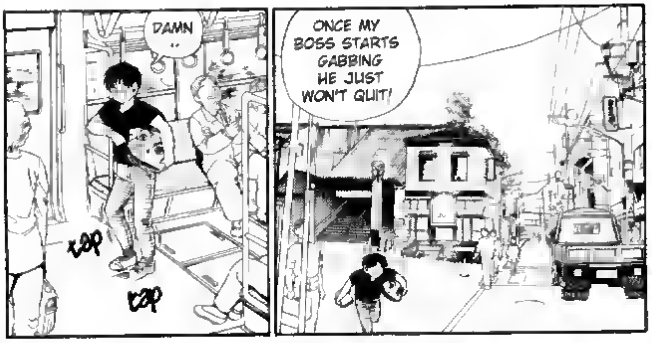
SOMEPLACE YOU COULD RENT FOR THE ENTIRE EVENING, WHERE YOU COULD MAKE AS MUCH NOISE AS YOU WANT.. MAYBE EVEN FOR FREE..

YOU SERIOUS !?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRUST ME

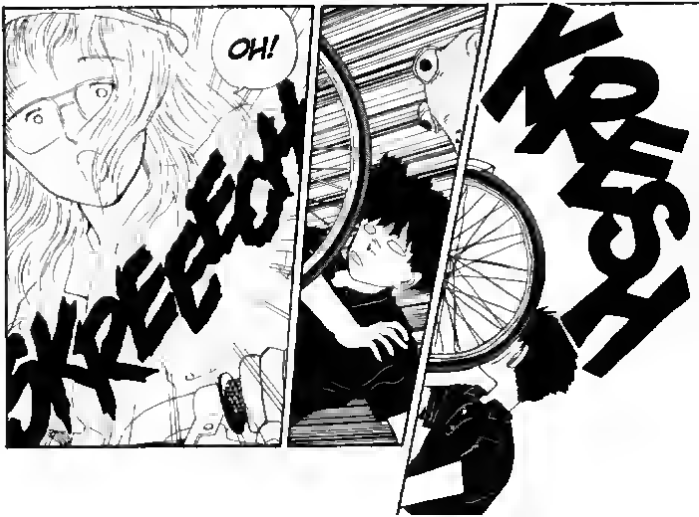
I DO, I DO!
MAYBE I SHOULD ASK FOR SOMETHING IN RETURN..
I CAN OFFER YOU MY BODY!
I'M NOT DISEASED! (I THINK)

I'VE GOT THE FUNNIEST FEELING WE'RE BEING WATCHED.
I DOUBT IT.
AND SO..

SEVERAL DAYS LATER.
I'M LATE, I'M LATE!
KKOMPA KLOMPA!
YOU HAVE VISIT-OR!
OH-- HELLO
GOOD AFTER-NOON.
GOING TO WORK?
I JUST GOT OFF WORK.
THIS IS MY FRIEND, FREDDY--
WE JUST MET.
E-- EXCUSE ME-- I'M IN A REAL RUSH.
YOU GET ACCIDENT IF NO SLOW DOWN!


DAMN ..
tap
tap
ONCE MY BOSS STARTS GABBING HE JUST WON'T QUIT!

TUMPA
TUMPA
TUMPA

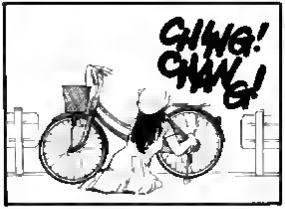

OH!
SKREEEH
KRASH

KTUNK!

A--
ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

E--EXCUSE ME-- I'M IN A HURRY!
B--BUT..
...
HUH?
KTHNK!

eh?


CHWG! CHWG!

DARN..
CHANK CHANK

HUH?

DID YOUR CHAIN COME OFF?

KA-KLANG!!
THERE YOU GO!
YOU'RE BLEEDING
DON'T MOVE.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
GOTTA RUN! I'M IN A BIG RUSH TOO, ACTUALLY
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
BUT

HERE! OVER HERE

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?
OH, NOTHING

THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED THE READ-THROUGH

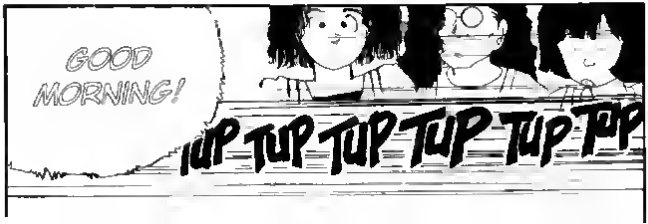
IT'S HUGE! IT'S PERFECT!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, MS. HIBINO
OUR PRINCIPAL IS A BIG FAN OF THE THEATER
LATE ON THE FIRST DAY, HUH?
I--- I'M SORRY
THESE ARE OUR NEW MEMBERS, YOKOYAMA AND HANAHISHI
HELLO
HELLO
OH--- HELLO.
WE'LL HAVE TO RECRUIT A FEW MORE MEMBERS ANYWAY.
ONE MORE NEW PERSON WAS SUPPOSED TO COME.
A NO-SHOW ON THE FIRST DAY. TOTALLY LAME.
PROBABLY A STUDENT.

STRETCH THOSE SYLLABLES OUT SLOWER..
AND THE COLORS SPREAD AS MY WORLD IS FOREVER CHANGING... OVER THE HILLS...

CONCEN-TRATE, DAMN IT!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO COME IN HERE.
OH.
WHAK!

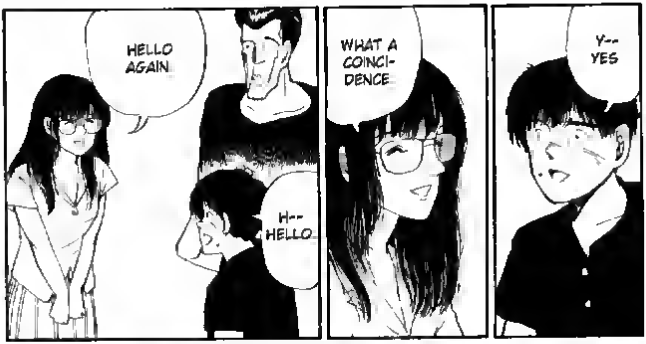
AYA!

I--I THOUGHT YOU WENT HOME FOR THE DAY.
WHICH ONE'S AYA'S BOY-FRIEND?
I SAW HIM ONCE BEFORE!


GOOD MORNING!
TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP

SORRY I'M LATE-- I GOT LOST
HUH?
SO WHICH ONE IS HE?

THIS IS MIYUKI FUKAGAWA. SHE SAW OUR AD IN "FUU" MAGAZINE.
HELLO. EXCUSE ME FOR SHOWING UP SO LATE.


HELLO AGAIN.
H--HELLO.
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE.
Y--YES

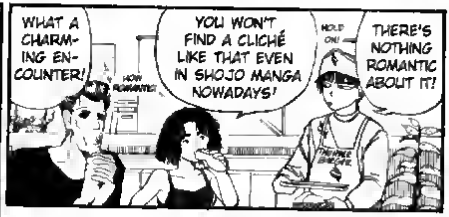
COME ON, AYA--WHICH ONE IS HE? DON'T TELL ME HE'S THE ONE WITH THE LONG FACE. YOU HAVE BETTER TASTE THAN THAT.
YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
W--WELL... YES AND NO.

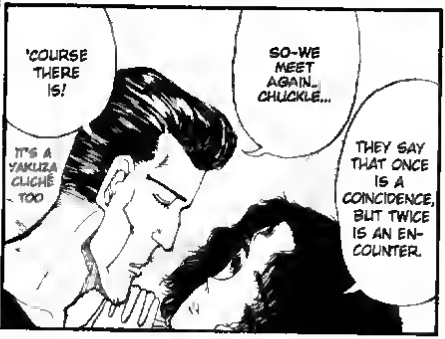
FEAR NOT OUR PLAN IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY
IT'S ALREADY STARTED?
I RECEIVED HER FIRST REPORT ALREADY
SHE HAS SUCCEEDED IN MAKING CONTACT WITH SUEKICHI.
NOT THE MOST ORIGINAL SET-UP IF YOU ASK ME...

ACT THIRTY-TWO

PUB
THUNDER BURGER

SO YOU JUST BUMPED INTO HER ON A STREET CORNER?
THIS IS GETTING OLD.
SLURP SLURP


WHAT A CHARMING ENCOUNTER!
NON ROMANTIC
YOU WON'T FIND A CLICHÉ LIKE THAT EVEN IN SHOJO MANGA NOWADAYS!
HOLD ON!
THERE'S NOTHING ROMANTIC ABOUT IT!


'COURSE THERE IS!
IT'S A YAKUZA CLICHÉ TOO
SO-WE MEET AGAIN... CHUCKLE...
THEY SAY THAT ONCE IS A COINCIDENCE, BUT TWICE IS AN ENCOUNTER.

THEN THRICE WOULD HAVE TO BE.
PING!
...FATE!
IT WASN'T A COINCIDENCE. WE WERE BOTH HEADING FOR THE SAME PLACE.
[ENOUGH WITH THE "PING" ALREADY!]

YEAH, RIGHT
I'VE GOT WORK TO DO, YOU KNOW

THE PLACE IS DESERT-ED.
HEY, FREDDY-- COME HERE.
WAITER-- ANOTHER SHAKE, PLEASE

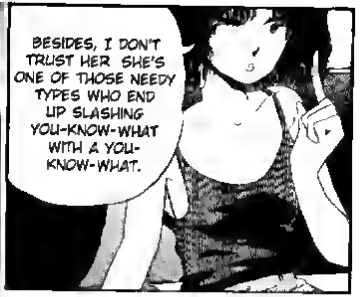
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT THIS TO BECOME A HABIT.
YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO STAY HOME. IT'S TOO FRIGGIN' HOT.
TOTALLY. AND SUEKICHI LIVES ON THE SECOND FLOOR, SO--
IN MY COUNTRY NOBODY SAY THIS HOT

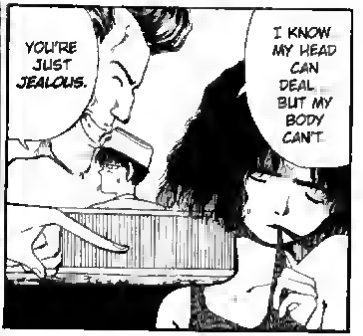
OH-- THAT'S RIGHT.
FWIP FWIP
LOOKIE-LOOK!

HEY!
THAT'S MINE.
THIS IS THE HANDKERCHIEF OF LUAV THAT SHE WRAPPED AROUND POOR SUEKICHI'S WOUNDED HAND.

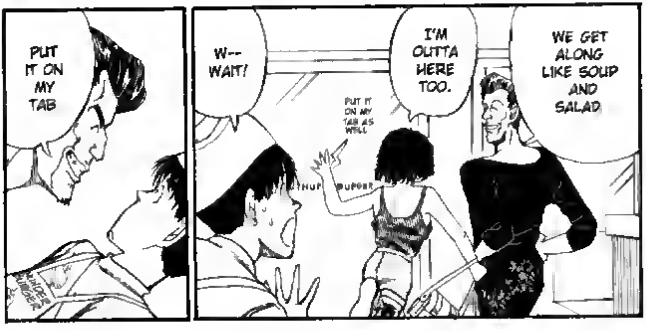
YOU'LL PROBABLY LURE HER INTO YOUR LAIR, AND THEN...
CUT IT OUT.

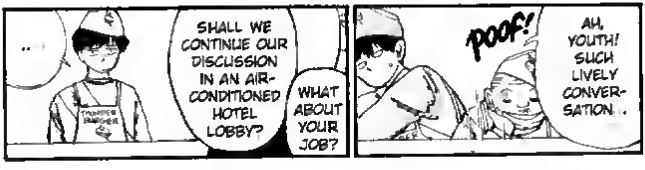
SUEKICHI'S POISONOUS FANGS WILL BITE INTO YET ANOTHER POOR GIRL'S THROAT, MARKING THE BEGINNING OF HER INEXORABLE FALL FROM GRACE...
I'M MORE THAN ENOUGH WOMAN FOR YOU.
GIMME A BREAK!


BESIDES, I DON'T TRUST HER. SHE'S ONE OF THOSE NEEDY TYPES WHO END UP SLASHING YOU-KNOW-WHAT WITH A YOU-KNOW-WHAT.


YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS.
I KNOW MY HEAD CAN DEAL... BUT MY BODY CAN'T.

WELL... TIME FOR WORK
A-ONE AND A-TWO AND...
I'M GETTIN' OLD
WHAT?
SIR... YOU HAVEN'T PAID.


PUT IT ON MY TAB
W--WAIT!
PUT IT ON MY TAB AS WELL!
THUP
PUPPER
I'M OUTTA HERE TOO.
WE GET ALONG LIKE SOUP AND SALAD.


..!
SHALL WE CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION IN AN AIR-CONDITIONED HOTEL LOBBY?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB?
POOF!
AH, YOUTH! SUCH LIVELY CONVERSATION..

THUNDER
GOOD NIGHT.

YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO MY PLACE?
THUNDER
I GO VISIT FRIENDS
DON'T BLOW ALL YOUR MONEY ON DRINKING AND PARTYING.
OKAY, OKAY!

WHAT A CLICHÉ.
I WISH THOSE TWO WOULD STOP TEASING ME.
YOU MESS WITH ME AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

MEOWW
I'M SUCH A DOPE.

A GHOST?
FWOOSH
WHAT THE--?
KRASH

W--
WHAT
A COINCI-
DENCE!
I SAW YOU AS
I WAS RIDING BY.
I WAS JUST
ABOUT TO CALL
OUT WHEN...
I DIDN'T
SEE THIS
TELEPHONE
POLE
AND...
"THRICE
IS..."
"...FATE?"
YEAH,
RIGHT.

HUH?
I MEAN .. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?
YES, THANK YOU.
I'M OVER HERE
SORRY-- MY EYE-SIGHT IS SO POOR
LET'S SEE.
THERE WE GO!
HM?
I--I'M ALL RIGHT.
BUT YOU'RE BLEED-ING.
OH, IT'S NOTHING ..
FWUMP!

GUESS I TWISTED MY ANKLE.
AM I GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?
OH, NO.. I LIVE IN HARAZUTSUMI
HARAZUTSUMI? IN KANAGAWA PREFECTURE?
IS IT AROUND HERE?
WHAT?
YOUR PLACE...
I LIKE RIDING MY BIKE IN THE DARK... ESPECIALLY IN THE SUMMER WHEN IT'S SO HOT.
I LIKE TO WANDER THE STREETS ALL NIGHT...AND I'VE ALWAYS ENJOYED BICYCLING.
I FEEL AS IF I MIGHT FIND AN EXIT.
AN "EXIT"?

WHEN YOU'RE LYING IN YOUR ROOM ON A HOT NIGHT... DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE SUFFOCATING?
LIKE THERE'S NO ESCAPE...
WHEN I GO OUTSIDE, I FEEL LIKE THERE'S A PLACE SOMEWHERE WHERE ALL THOSE FEELINGS WILL JUST VANISH.

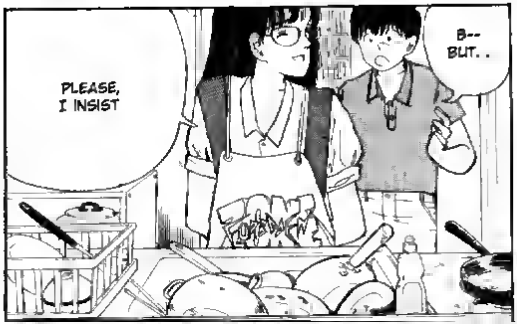
TH--THAT'S KIND OF ABSTRACT.
REALLY?
W--WHAT'S WRONG?
GLOM
SORRY--A DIZZY SPELL.

IS YOUR PLACE...
NEARBY?

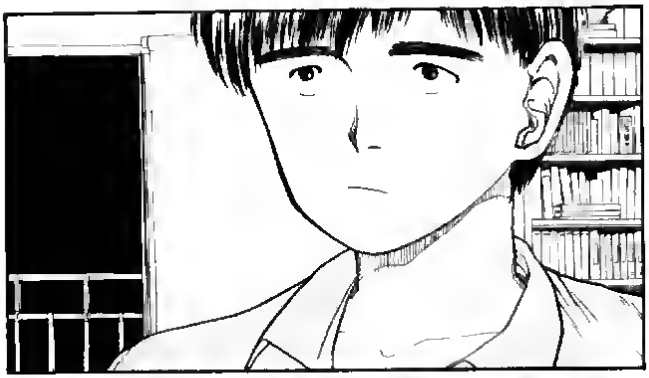
CAN YOU MAKE IT?
I THINK SO
SORRY FOR BARGING IN ON YOU...
WELL, WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THAT ANKLE.
YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS!
EVERYONE'S ALWAYS GETTING INJURED IN THE THEATER COMPANY, SO I HAD TO LEARN.
YOUR ANKLE SHOULD BE FINE NOW!

ALL RIGHT...

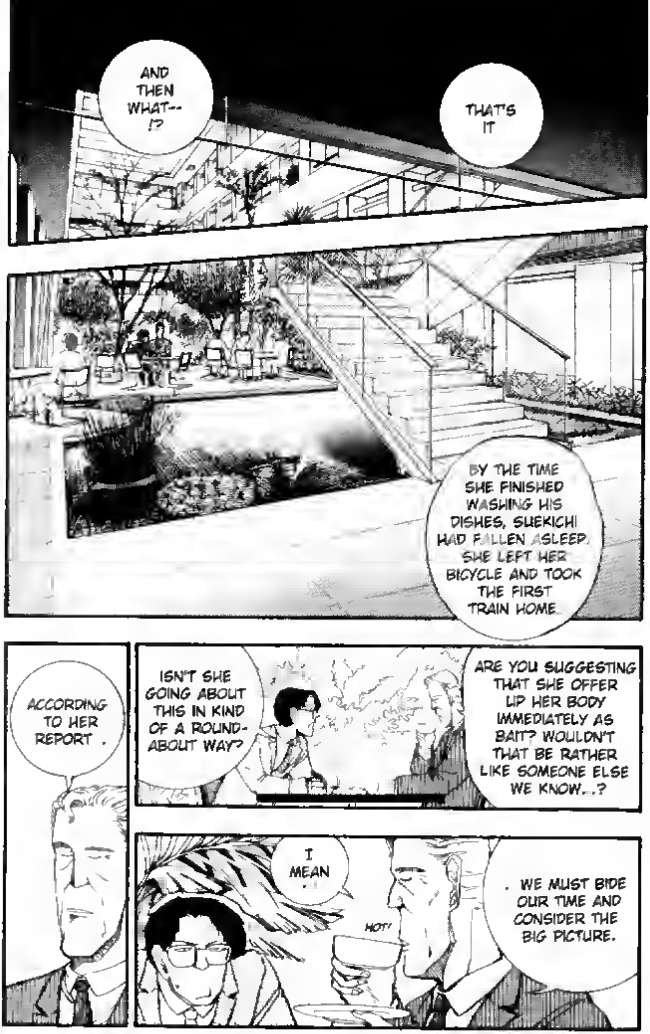
AM I BLEEDING BADLY?
UH... NO
FSSHAA


PLEASE, I INSIST
B-- BUT..

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO RUN INTO YOU.
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
ALL I EVER FIND IS A FAST-FOOD RESTAURANT OR A CONVENIENCE STORE...
THE WORLD ISN'T PERFECT, AFTER ALL.
SO, ..HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR EXIT?
HUH?
OH.., WHAT I SAID BEFORE.
..BUT SOMETIMES THERE ARE NIGHTS LIKE THIS.



HMMM
...


AND THEN WHAT--!?
THAT'S IT
BY THE TIME SHE FINISHED WASHING HIS DISHES, SUEKICHI HAD FALLEN ASLEEP. SHE LEFT HER BICYCLE AND TOOK THE FIRST TRAIN HOME.
ACCORDING TO HER REPORT .
ISN'T SHE GOING ABOUT THIS IN KIND OF A ROUND-ABOUT WAY?
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT SHE OFFER UP HER BODY IMMEDIATELY AS BAIT? WOULDN'T THAT BE RATHER LIKE SOMEONE ELSE WE KNOW..?
I MEAN .
HOT!
. WE MUST BIDE OUR TIME AND CONSIDER THE BIG PICTURE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

ACT THIRTY-THREE

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

Story & Art by

KI YAMAMOTO

Translation & ADAPTATION

Lettering & Touch-up

THE STORY THUS FAR...

...ollege student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen ...4.5 million dollars!) if he graduates. Unfortunately ...is easily distracted from his studies by a sexy ...ung woman named Aya, even though he suspects ...is only in love with his money. Suekichi's lawyer ...manager of his trust fund, doesn't just suspect ...s convinced.

Now that Suekichi's lawyer and Aya's ex-...band have discovered their common interest in ...arating the sometimes-loving (but always-brutal) ...ple they have begun plotting a devilishly-clever ...k (the two apart forever!)

A young woman has been hired by one to ...ce Suekichi away from Aya. Miyuki is winsome, ...lingly ethereal—except when she comes ...o Suekichi like a ten-ton truck! Which she's ...managing to accomplish with frightening

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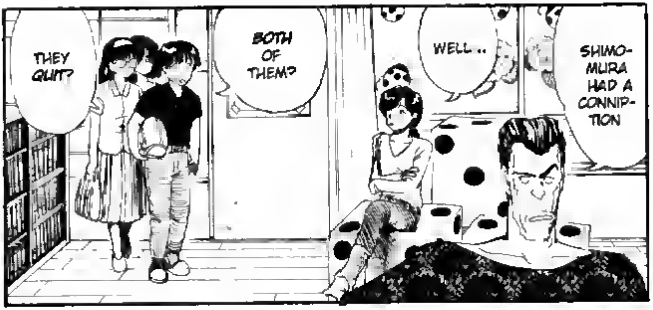
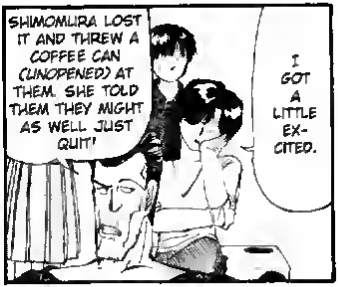
HUH?
OH-- GOOD MORNING.
WE BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN. TOTAL COINCIDENCE. BOTH OF US WERE RUSHING HERE AND--
SOMETHING MORE URGENT
HUH?


THEY QUIT?
BOTH OF THEM?
WELL ..
SHIMOMURA HAD A CONNIPTION

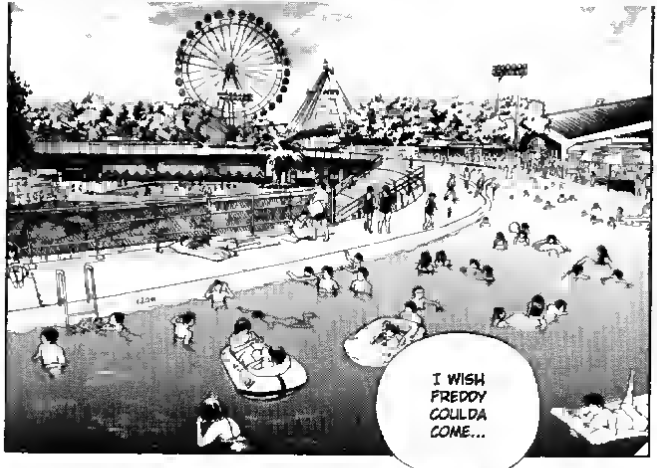
FIRST ..
IS IT OKAY IF I ONLY COME EVERY OTHER DAY?
I CAN'T TAKE ANY TIME OFF FROM MY PART-TIME JOB
THEN ..
WHAT NERVE!


SHIMOMURA LOST IT AND THREW A COFFEE CAN (UNOPENED) AT THEM. SHE TOLD THEM THEY MIGHT AS WELL JUST QUIT!
I GOT A LITTLE EXCITED.

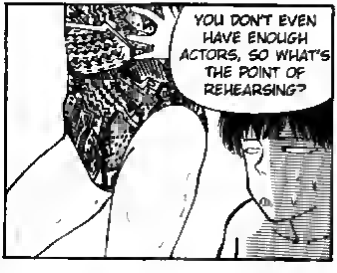
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?
HMM ..
BEATS ME, MAN. WE'RE DOWN TO FOUR.
AND TWO ARE ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

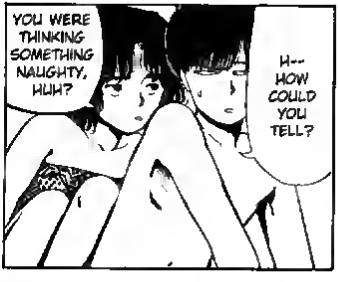
HOW'RE YOU GONNA RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS WHILE YOU'RE REHEARSING?
BUG OFF-- LEMME SLEEP. I WORKED LATE INTO THE A.M
YOU'VE GOT TO WORK ON TOP OF THAT? IN THIS HEAT!?
IKEZU ACTUALLY INVITED ME TO JOIN...
INDECENT EXPOSURE!
RIGHT ON! RIGHT ON!
AAGH!
clap! clap! clap!
PLEASE DON'T! IT'LL BE THE END OF THE TROUPE!
AND CAN YOU NOT WALK AROUND LIKE THAT!?
TOO DIS-TRACT-ING, HUH?
DIS-TRAKING, DIS-TRAKING

LIKE MY BATHING SUIT? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
LOOKING GOOD ON YOU, AYA.
NICE PRANK
IT'S SOOO HOT OUT.. AND REHEARSAL'S NOT TILL TONIGHT.. SO LET'S GO SWIMMING!
SORRY, HONEY, BUT I HAD A HARD DAY AT THE OFFICE.
BUT LOOK!
FREE PASSES TO THE POOL.
WHEN I TOOK THE NURSERY SCHOOL KIDS ON A FIELD TRIP I SCAMMED THESE OFF A TICKET SELLER
I'M TOO BUSY.
REHEARSAL MY JOB FINDING NEW MEMBERS..
AW, COME O-O-ON..
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW MIYUKI..
HUH?

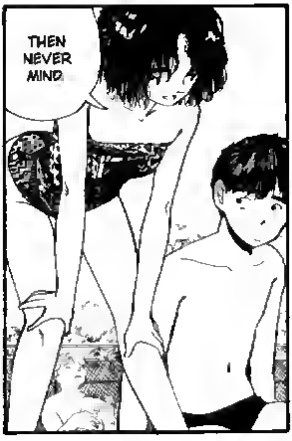

I WISH FREDDY COULDA COME...

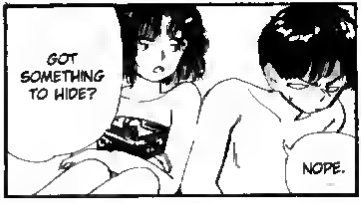
I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR WATER SPORTS..
BUT HE HAD A SHIFT..


YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH ACTORS, SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF REHEARSING?

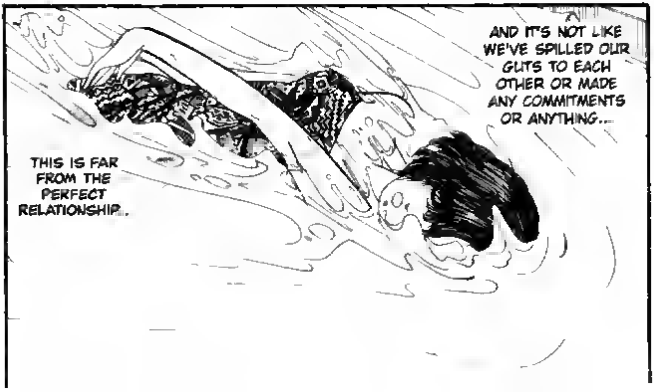

H-- HOW COULD YOU TELL?
YOU WERE THINKING SOMETHING NAUGHTY, HUH?

TELL WHAT?
GIVE ME A BREAK!

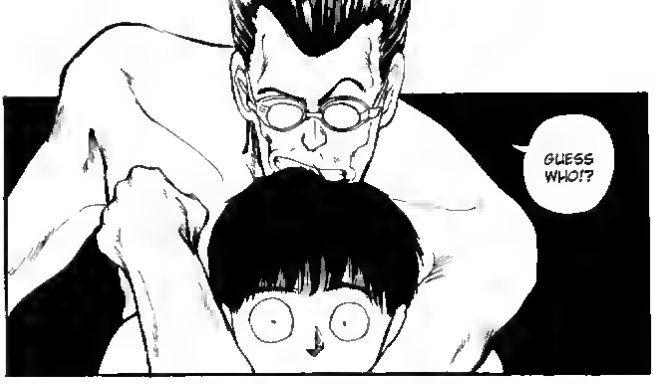

THEN NEVER MIND.

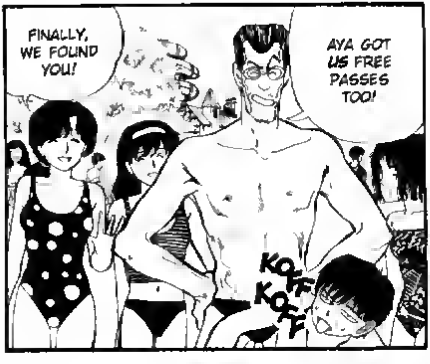

GOT SOMETHING TO HIDE?
NOPE.

YEAH
shploosh
WHY AM I HOLDING BACK?


AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE SPILLED OUR GUTS TO EACH OTHER OR MADE ANY COMMITMENTS OR ANYTHING...
THIS IS FAR FROM THE PERFECT RELATIONSHIP.

COME ON IN! THE WATER'S FINE!
AT FIRST I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST AFTER MY INHERITANCE...
YOU'RE A GOOD SWIMMER!
...WE ENDED UP SCREWING AROUND...
I'VE GOT THE DISTRICT RECORD FOR THE BACKWARDS CRAWL!
THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO IT THAN THAT...
WOW! IMPRESSIVE!
HUH?


GUESS WHO!?


FINALLY, WE FOUND YOU!
AYA GOT US FREE PASSES TOO!
KOFF KOFF

I THOUGHT WE WERE REHEARSING TONIGHT.
WELL, THIS'LL BE A GOOD WORKOUT FOR US, AND IT'LL HELP BUILD CAMARADERIE

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN BEFORE SHE PUTS US THROUGH OUR PACES, HUH?

OH! HELLO THERE

STARTING TOMORROW, WE'LL BE REHEARSING, RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS, BUILDING SETS, SELLING TICKETS..

...A MOMENT OF RESPITE FOR THE WARRIOR.

I DON'T GET IT. YOU CAN'T BE IN THIS FOR THE MONEY!

THE SUN AND I BURN TOGETHER!

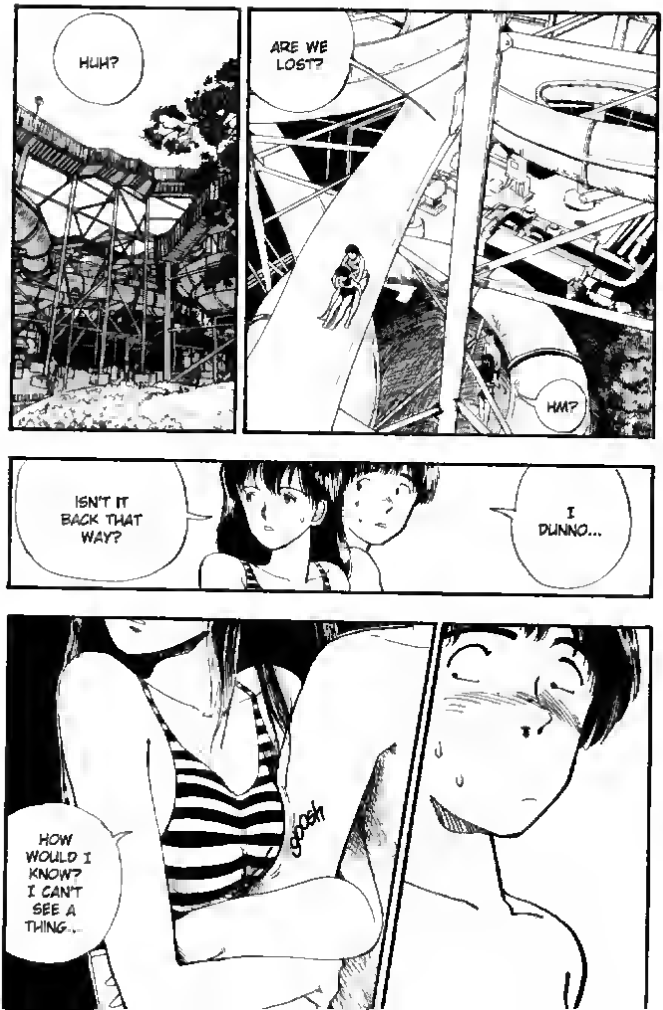
HEY, WHERE'S MIYUKI?

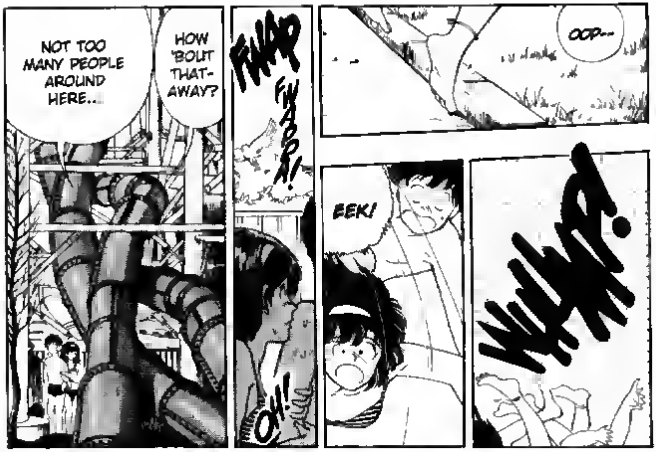
TAKING A DUMP?

I CAN'T FIND SUEKICHI EITHER.

R-REALLY, IT'S OKAY. LET'S GIVE UP.
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING SHINY OVER HERE..

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT..
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SOMEONE LOSING BOTH CONTACTS AT THE SAME TIME BEFORE...
HUH?
I'M BLIND WITHOUT MY CONTACTS..
UMM
WE SHOULD BE GETTING BACK..
REALLY, FORGET IT...
BUT...


HUH?
ARE WE LOST?
HM?
ISN'T IT BACK THAT WAY?
I DUNNO...
HOW WOULD I KNOW? I CAN'T SEE A THING...
gosh


NOT TOO MANY PEOPLE AROUND HERE...
HOW 'BOUT THAT-AWAY?
FWAP
FWAP!
OH!
OOP--
EEK!
WUHH?!

I--I'M SORRY..
TH--THAT'S OKAY...
FWAP!

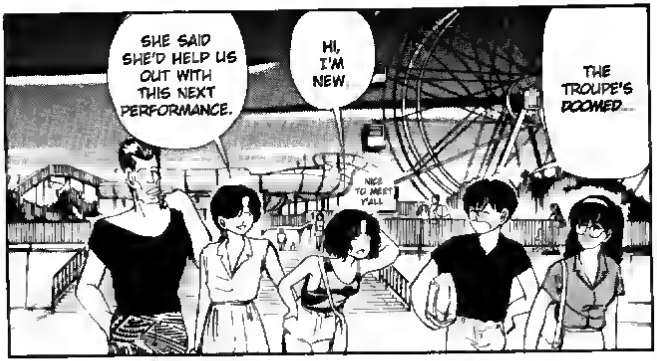
FWAP FWAP
FWAP
FWAPPA!
FWAP
FWAP!
FWAPPA!
FWAP

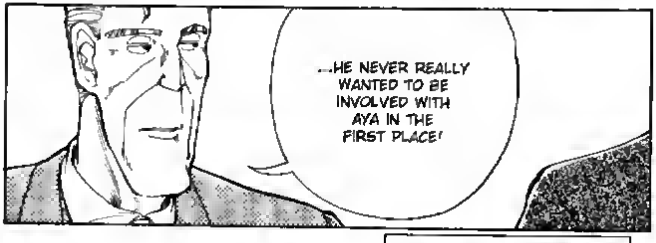
BONDAGE HORSE THEATER TROUPE MEMBERS SUEKICHI TERAYAMA AND MIYUKI FUKAGAWA! STOP HAVING SEX RIGHT NOW AND INFORM US OF YOUR PRESENT LOCATION!
IKEZU--- PLEASE!
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY.
HEY, SUE-KICHI-I-!!

JUST AS I THOUGHT-- THEY WERE DOIN' IT.
WE GOT LOST!

OH YEAH? THEN HOW'D THIS PEBBLE GET STUCK TO YOUR BACK?
I FELL!

WHA-AT!?


SHE SAID SHE'D HELP US OUT WITH THIS NEXT PERFORMANCE.
HI, I'M NEW.
THE TROUPE'S DOOMED...
NICE TO MEET YA'LL



TO BE CONTINUED!!

ACT THIRTY-FOUR
TOO HOT FOR PLAYING

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

Story & Art by:
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by YUJI ONO
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR.

College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen [$4.5 million dollars] if he graduates. Unfortunately, he is easily distracted from his studies by a sexy young woman named Ayu. Even though he suspects she is only in love with his money, Suekichi's lawyer, the manager of his school band, and his best friend—he's convinced!

Now that Suekichi, Ayu, and Ayu's rock band have discovered their common interest in perpetrating the sometimes [loving but always hostile] couple, they've begun plotting a diabolically plan to break the two apart forever!

A young woman has been hired as bait to seduce Suekichi away from Ayu. Named for whom she looks strangely ethereal—except when she bumps into Suekichi like a ten ton truck! And with Mayuko ning Suekichi's college theater ensemble, Bondage Horse, the collisions are bound to continue.

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CHREEEEEEEEEEE CHREEEEEEEE

THUNK!
SCORE'S 1 TO 6 SO FAR.
ONE MORE?
IT'S SO EXCITING!
YOU GUYS ARE HEATING UP THIS ROOM EVEN MORE! GEEZ!
HUH?
LOOKS LIKE THE GREAT IKEZU HAS FINALLY MET HIS MATCH!
YOUR "V"-SHAPED BUILD IS YOUR GREATEST ASSET!
HUH?
WHAT?
HOW-EVER...

THESE DAYS IN JAPAN, NOTHING IS LESS VALUED THAN A MAN'S BODY.
HOW-EVER...
PRO WRESTLING IS OUT!
MODELING IS ALL ABOUT HEIGHT AND LOOKS!
OH...
THERE'S ALWAYS ACTING!
ACTING?
ACTING IS A VERY PHYSICAL TALENT. IT'S ONLY ON THE STAGE THAT THE ELEGANCE OF A PHYSIQUE CAN TRULY SHINE.
AND MONEY?
PLENTY, PLENTY.
REALLY?
WE DON'T NEED TO LIE TO RECRUIT NEW ACTORS.
IT'S SO HOT. CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ROOM?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE HERE!
NOT HOT HERE. YOU CAN FRY RICE ON ROOF IN MY COUN-TRY!
adidas

I'M TAKING ANOTHER COLD BATH.
KEEP AN EYE ON THEM, FREDDY, TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T HAVE SEX.
CHUD.
I THINK HE'S FUNNY
H-HE'S JUST JOKING

YO!
HUH?

HMM.
HELLO.
A FRIEND OF FUKAGAWA'S IS PRINTING THE POSTERS FOR THE NEXT SHOW SO WE HAD TO GO OVER THE DETAILS AND..
HMMM
I WENT TO THE BEACH.
LOOK HOW TAN I GOT.
NOT WORTH GOING INTO THE DETAILS.
NOT REALLY.
DON'T YOU WANNA KNOW WHO I WENT WITH?
THEN DON'T SIT ON ME.
IT'S SO HUMID!
HUH?
I'M OFF!
STAY A WHILE!
GOT TO RUN!
SHIT!

DON'T LOOK SO CRUSHED.
COME ON-- LET'S GET OUT OF THIS SAUNA ..
AND GO SOMEPLACE COOL!
COOL?
YOU MEAN SOME "LOVE HOTEL" WHERE WE'LL SPLIT THE TAB
COMPLETELY AIR-CONDITIONED, MEALS, BATHROOM, AND BEER PROVIDED!
OR A DEPARTMENT STORE OR A BANK...
UH UH!
GREEEEE
AND IT'S ALL FREE!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, FREDDY?
PUSSY!
I KNOW WHAT YOU GOING DO!
HEY

KEIYU
ON PASSAGE

THIS STATION LOOKS
THIS WAY!
KEIYU

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING SOMEPLACE COOL
HOW FAR IS IT?
YOU'LL SEE

HOW MUCH FURTHER?
YOU'RE TIRED ALREADY?

MAYBE YOU NEED MORE CALCIUM IN YOUR DIET.
WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOREVER!
NOW I GET IT... YOU'RE TRYING TO KILL ME WITH HEAT PROSTRATION.
IF YOU CROAK, THERE GOES YOUR INHERIT-ANCE.
EH?
I THOUGHT SO...
THAT'S MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE! I RECOG-NIZED THE STATION...
OH, REALLY?
WELL, HERE WE ARE

YOU MUST BE KIDDING
THIS IS WHERE I LIVE!
CENTRAL AIR-CONDITION-ING!

THIS IS YOUR HOUSE?
I SPEND SO MUCH TIME AT YOUR PLACE, MOM TOLD ME TO INVITE YOU OVER.

IT'S BEEN A PLEAS-URE--
JUST KIDDING!

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME I'LL GET SOME SHERBET.

THIS PLACE IS HUGE!
WELL, WE'VE GOT THREE GENER-ATIONS LIVING HERE..
NO ONE'S AROUND? REALLY?
THEY WENT ON A TRIP
I'M THE BLACK SHEEP IN THE FAMILY.
GETTING DIVORCED AND ALL. AND MY FAMILY BEING SO CLOSE TO THE FAMILY I DUMPED MAKES IT EVEN WORSE.
THEY'D LOVE TO GET RID OF ME
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING GOOD EVER COMES OUT OF YOU OPENING UP...
AW, COME ON CHEER UP! TAKE A LOAD OFF!
LET'S HAVE FUN. CUT LOOSE!
Uh-huh

HONEY
DINNER'S READY.
OPEN UP AND SAY "AHH"
GIMME A BREAK
DID YOU DO THIS WITH MUNAKATA?
IT'S HER EYES THAT GET ME.
PUH-LEASE.

THANKS FOR RUINING THE MOOD.
WHAT MOOD?
I'M DONE.
OH, HI MOM!
BING! BONG!
JUST KIDDING, IT WAS ONLY THE CLEANERS
BRRRR BRRRRR
DAD? YEAH, I'M FINE JUST HANGIN' OUT.
THIS HOUSE IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH.

THANKS FOR DOING THE DISHES. I LOVE TO COOK, BUT I HATE WASHING UP.
HUH?
YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT FUKAGAWA JUST NOW, WEREN'T YOU?
S-SO WHAT IF I WAS?
AREN'T YOU DEFEN-SIVE!

I WAS JUST REMEMBERING THE TIME SHE CAME OVER AND WASHED MY DISHES.
WHAT'S IT TO YOU? WHAT DO YOU CARE WHO I THINK ABOUT WHILE I'M WASHING DISHES.
OR ARE YOU...
JEALOUS?
I DOUBT IT.
IF YOU REALLY CARED ABOUT ME, YOU WOULDN'T TREAT ME SO BADLY.
LET IT ALL OUT, SUEKICHI
HM?

WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR CARING ABOUT YOU!
AND I'M SORRY IF I DON'T TREAT YOU WELL ENOUGH! SOMETIMES I'M NOT SO GOOD AT EXPRESSING MYSELF!
DON'T LOOK AT HER EYES.
IF YOU LOOK AT HER EYES, YOU'RE FINISHED
SUE-KICHI HAS VANISH-ED
NO REPORT
REALLY ?

To be continued...

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by YUJI ONIKI
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

ACT THIRTY-FIVE
SUEKICHI SHAPES UP(NOT!)

THE STORY THUS FAR. .

College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen ($4.5 million dollars) if he graduates. Unfortunately, he is easily distracted from his studies by a sexy young woman named Aya, even though he suspects she is only in love with his money. Suekichi's lawyer, the manager of his trust fund—doesn't just suspect it—he's convinced!

Now that Suekichi's lawyer and Aya's ex-husband have discovered their common interest in sabotaging the sometimes loving (but always lustful) couple, they've begun plotting a diabolically slick way to break the two apart forever!

A young woman has been hired as bait to seduce Suekichi away from Aya. Miyuki is winsome, flighty, strangely ethereal—except when she bumps into Suekichi like a ten-ton truck! When Aya takes Suekichi to her own family's home for the first time, her jealous tears reveal that she knows who's on Suekichi's mind. Facing his lover, he tells himself not to look into Aya's eyes, or he's lost.

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WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR CARING ABOUT YOU!
AND I'M SORRY IF I DON'T TREAT YOU WELL ENOUGH!
IF YOU LOOK AT HER EYES, YOU'RE FINISHED.
DON'T LOOK AT HER EYES
HERE'S WHERE WE LEFT OFF, LAST EPISODE...
KRAKOOM!
FSHOO

I LOST. AGAIN...

NOT ONLY THAT. .
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
. .PLUS THE FEAR OF GETTING CAUGHT

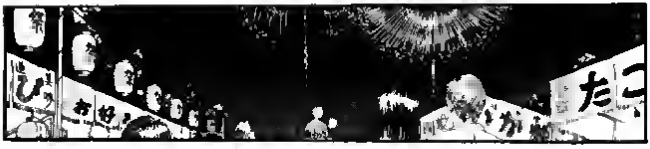
...
MADE IT EVEN BETTER.

YOU SAY SOME-THING?
milk

....

D-DAMN IT! NOTHING'S CHANGED!
HEY, LOOK!
FWAK!
FWAK!
FWAK!

LET'S GO SEE THE FIRE-WORKS.



CAN'T SEE A THING!
PIGGY-BACK RIDE!

HARD TO... BALANCE...
RELAX!

HEY! DON'T TELL ME YOU AREN'T WEARING ANY UNDERWEAR!
I'M NOT.

HEY! GOLDFISH!
I CAN'T LET THIS GO ON

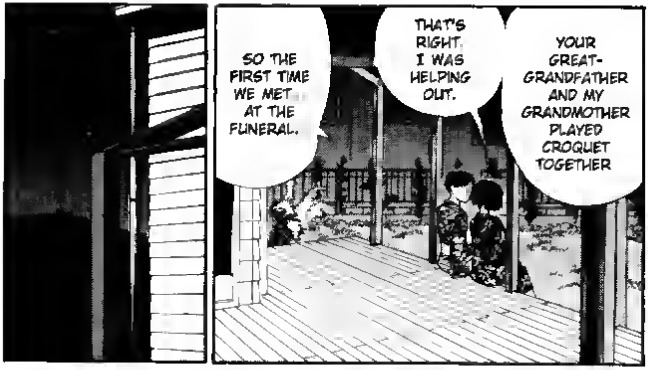
AYA? THAT YOU?
SAMEJIMA! SINCE WHEN DO YOU OWN A SHOP?
I'M ONLY DOING THIS PART-TIME.
HERE-- TRY ONE
H-HELLO
HMM...
THIS IS SUEKICHI
WHADDYA MEAN, "HMM"?
MATSU-ZAWA'S GOT ANOTHER KID
WOW!
HOW'S EVERYONE?
SAME AS USUAL

A FRIEND?
CLASS-MATE FROM JUNIOR HIGH
MY FIRST. SIGH...
JUST KIDDING!
Ba Dump Bump!
STICK CLOSE TO ME OR WE'LL LOSE EACH OTHER.
BUT WE GOT SEPARATED ANYWAY
I SHOULD BE HEADING HOME.

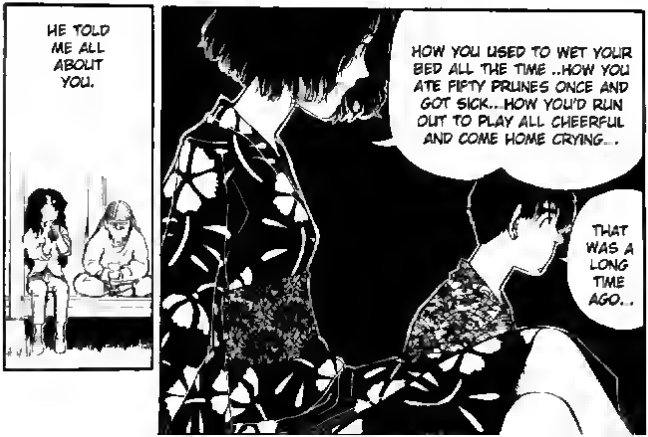
AYA?
NOPE HAVEN'T SEEN HER...
I-I'LL GO LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE...
I'LL HELP YOU.
お好み
SO I TAKE IT YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT AYA?
WELL..
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE KIDS. WHEN I HEARD HER MARRIAGE DIDN'T WORK OUT..., WELL... I STARTED WONDERING IF...

W-WE'RE NOT THAT INVOLVED... JUST FRIENDS.
AREN'T YOU WEARING AYA'S FATHER'S KIMONO?
.....
IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE AYA'S ONLY PLAYING AROUND, BUT...
WHEN SHE LIKES SOMEONE SHE REALLY GOES AFTER HIM
SHE'S NOT MUCH FOR SMILING. MOST OF THE TIME SHE'S KIND OF IN A DAZE.
HER FACE ONLY LIGHTS UP LIKE THAT WHEN SHE'S WITH SOMEONE SHE REALLY LIKES. ESPECIALLY SINCE SHE LEFT HER HUSBAND...
SO... WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST.
OF COURSE, OF COURSE...
WHEN WE WERE KIDS..
..I HAD A ONE-WAY CRUSH ON HER.
THERE YOU ARE.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS UP TO?
SPREADING MALICIOUS GOSSIP ABOUT YOU!

WHAT WERE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?
NOTHING MUCH...
LOOKS LIKE MY GREAT-GRANDPA'S PLACE IS STILL VACANT...
I WALK BY HERE ALL THE TIME, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN IT OCCUPIED...
MAYBE THERE'S STILL SOME UNRESOLVED BUSINESS BETWEEN THE RELATIVES...
LET'S TAKE A PEEK
COME ON! GET OUTTA THERE!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF THE PLACE


SO THE FIRST TIME WE MET... AT THE FUNERAL.
THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS HELPING OUT.
YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER AND MY GRANDMOTHER PLAYED CROQUET TOGETHER

AFTER I DUMPED MUNAKATA, I USED TO DROP BY HERE FOR TEA
WITH MY GREAT-GRANDPA?


HE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU.
HOW YOU USED TO WET YOUR BED ALL THE TIME ..HOW YOU ATE FIFTY PRUNES ONCE AND GOT SICK...HOW YOU'D RUN OUT TO PLAY ALL CHEERFUL AND COME HOME CRYING...
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...

AH.
THEN I MET YOU IN PERSON!
AND YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TRICK ME?
G-GET OFF.
YOU WANNA GO HOME WITH A HARD-ON?
KISS ME.
TH-THIS CAN'T GO ON.

AHH!
trmbl

WHAT'RE YOU THINKING?
KNOW WHAT?
WHAT?
THAT WASN'T THE ONLY REASON.
WHEN I SLEEP WITHOUT YOU, I GET NIGHTMARES.
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME BY TODAY?
G'NIGHT.

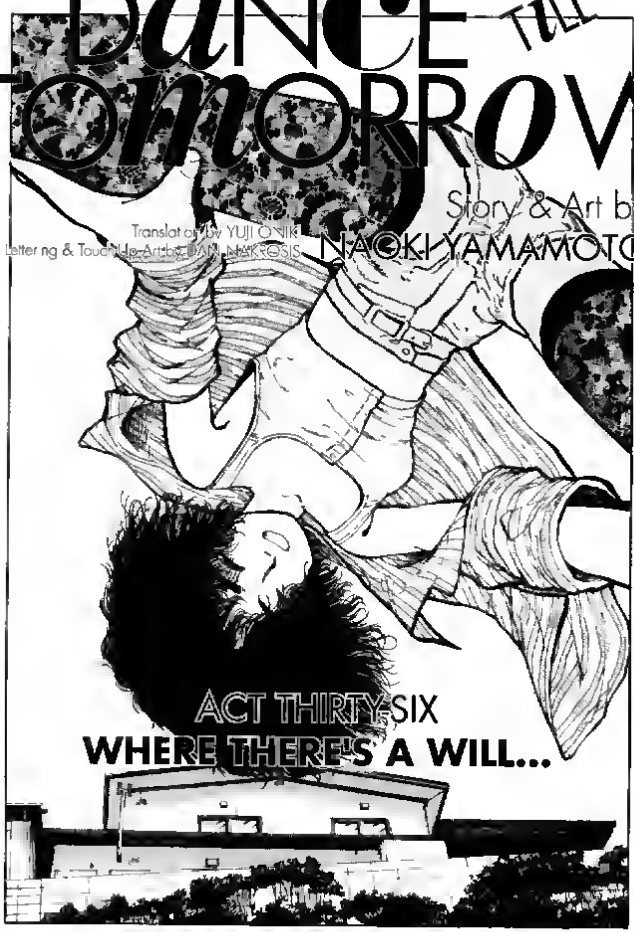
AYA!
WAIT! IT'S ME-- SUEKICHI. REMEMBER ME?
PLEASE! COME BACK TO ME!
IT'S OVER I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE!
BUT I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU! PLEASE COME BACK!
I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT YOU!

AYA- A- A...
LET'S GO
WE CAN START OVER AGAIN! LOOK! HERE'S THE GOLDFISH WE GOT AT THAT FESTIVAL.
IT'S SAYING, "COME BACK, AYA ..COME BACK..."
GO AWAY!
FNOK!
NIGHT-MARE...
SCHNORR
TO BE CONTINUED!!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by YUJI ONIKI
Lettering & Touch-up Art by DAN NAKROSIS



ACT THIRTY-SIX
WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

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THE STORY THUS FAR...

Suekichi's great-grandfather left him nothing but his stamp collection ...a slim nonmonetary portfolio worth perhaps 450 million yen (US$4.5 mil). But before the bad can take possession, he has to fulfill certain conditions—graduate from college, get married, establish a career. You might as well tell Suekichi he has to flap his arms and fly, because he's far too busy trying to produce the plays of the Bondage Horse theater troupe to attend class and he's far too busy getting entangled with women, including the troupe's leader, to produce the plays. But chief among these women is Aya Hibino, who claims to have gotten to know all about Suekichi from hanging out with great-granddad as a youth (supposedly Aya's grandmother was his frequent partner). Since Aya came into his life the hung-over morning after the funeral, Suekichi's been dogged by suspicions that she's the only living soul besides his lawyer who knows of the inheritance, s after his (potential) money. That hasn't stopped the two of them from hitting skins every chance they get, or, for that matter from falling in love with each other. And it's Suekichi who has ended up with Aya's money, borrowing a million yen (plus interest plus out-of-pocket expenses) from her to keep Bondage Horse afloat. Suekichi's lawyer and trust manager has been tak-tsking over Aya for months now, but s was avuncular advice has failed, he's having to resort to conspiracy plan ning to split Suekichi and Aya apart with the l v e of a "normal relationship." It will be interesting to see what "normal" will mean in it's story.

Suekichi Terayama:
"Maybe it's just in the stars for me to score with women..." muses this college boy, " or the will of the writer." His attendance record is rotten but he's taken out heavy onerous student loans at the school of life.

Aya Hibino:
Occupation: kindergarten teacher (really and truly), Aya lacks politeness, propriety and a sense of modesty; her spontaneity is as sexy as her lovely love for Suekichi does he her down—but only like a kite in a gale.

Great-Grandpa:
Daikichi Terayama likes being a ghost, dropping in on Suekichi to see how he's doing and to possess the bodies of girls sleeping over at his apartment. He's not much on offering sage advice though.

Mr. Tachumi: He's really kind of he helpful to Suekichi, even letting Bondage Horse use the Terayama estate to rehearse. But now he's lured a girl **through** a shady contact to distract Suekichi and send Aya back where she came from.

Miyuki Fukagawa:
The ferael girl Joining Bondage Horse after "discovering" it in the paper she appears to be winsome, flaky, ethereal and she's definitely made Suekichi's eye wander. But what lurkes what's behind her glasses?

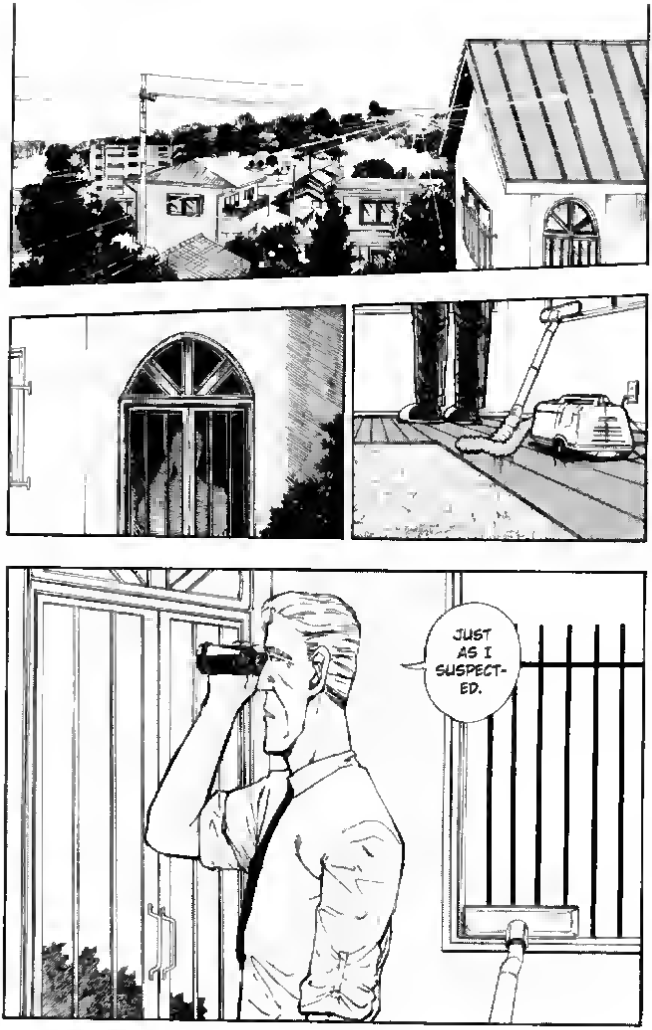
Naruhito Munakata:
Where Aya came from, this family and Aya's go way back, as did the plans for the arranged marriage and mother-in-law Aya walked out on. The despondent fellow is counting on Tachumi's plan to bring her back.

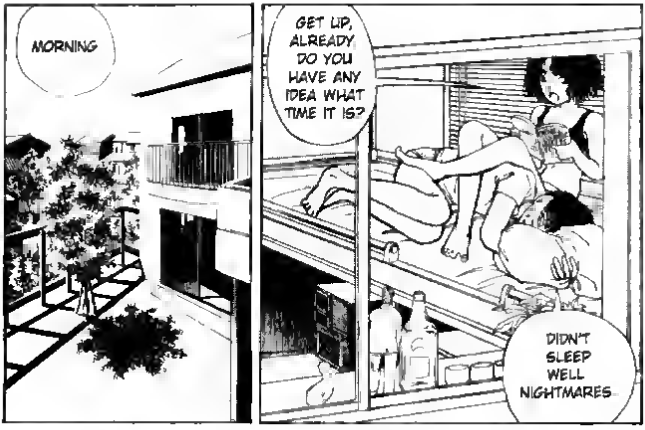
Ikezu: This square jawed Bondage Horse stalwart chides the younger Suekichi for sleeping around and living off his parents, vices he himself shares. Truly dedicated to the theater and to mooching off Suekichi.

Masami Shimamura: Leader of Bondage Horse, a title she came up with because she "just wanted to have a dirty name." Ikezu has known her since junior high; according to h s "calculations," she's still a virgin at 27.

The Reasonable Yakuza: Office upstairs from Bondage Horse. He may be a Scarface, but he claims to have a rep as a well read Renaissance man and, admiring the passion of the troupe, has become a terrifying patron of the arts.

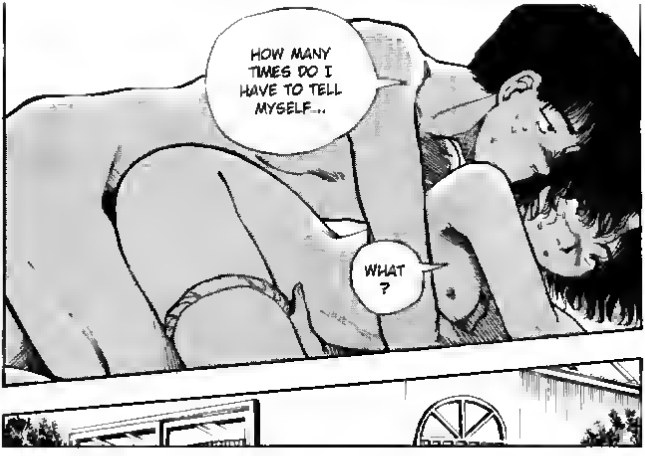
Freddy: Aya picked up this buffed out Southeast Asian illegal immigrant in Shinjuku and family put him up at Suekichi's place. Suekichi found him a job. Freddy found an army of fellow countrymen to invade Suekichi's place to party.


JUST AS I SUSPECT-ED.


MORNING
GET UP, ALREADY DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS?
DIDN'T SLEEP WELL NIGHTMARES

IT'S KINDA NICE JUST LOUNGING AROUND LIKE THIS.
WHAT ABOUT WORK?
IT'S SUMMER VACATION.

I'VE GOT TO GO TO REHEARSAL.
NOT UNTIL THIS EVENING.

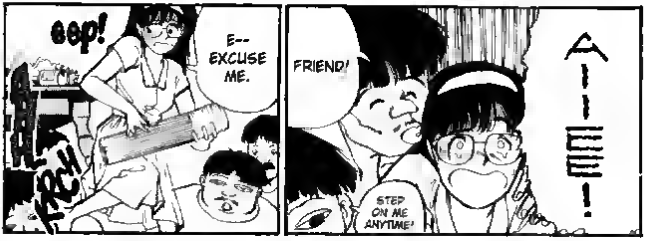

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL MYSELF...
WHAT ?

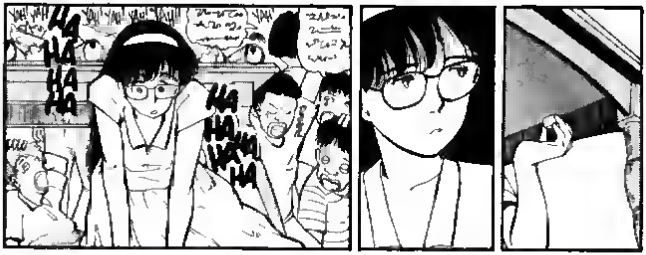
EH?
THAT'S MY GREAT GRANDPA'S HOUSE, ISN'T IT?
SO?
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE MOVING INSIDE
THERE'S NO ONE THERE.
I SWEAR I SAW SOMEONE..
BUT IT'S VACANT.

MAYBE IT WAS HIS GHOST!
IN BROAD DAY-LIGHT?
WELL.. LOOK AT US, IN BROAD DAY-LIGHT..
OHHH!
TATSUMI HERE.
HE'S AT HER PLACE.

CHIME!
SUE-KI-CHI!
SNAP! RAP!
SUEKICHI NO HOME.

ZZZZZ
Hollywood Cosmetics
THESE MY FRIENDS.
I JUST STOPPED BY TO DROP THESE OFF
UMM..
GLAH
abld


eep!
E-- EXCUSE ME.
FRIEND!
STEP ON ME ANYTIME!
A---!!!


HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA

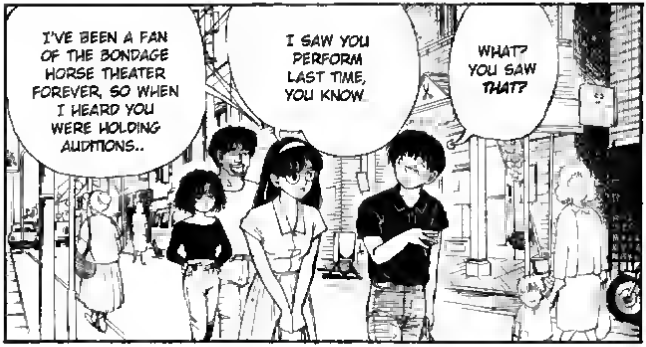
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

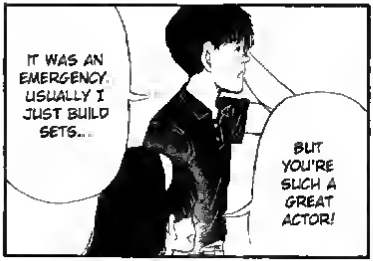
FREDDYYY...
WE CLEAN UP.
abldas

HUH?
WHY, HELLO.

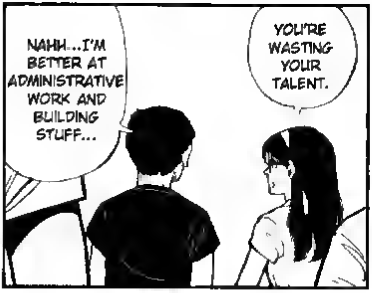
FARTY OVER! FARTY OVER!
I WAS JUST DROPPING OFF THESE FLYERS.
OH THANKS.

WELL, THEN...
WHY DON'T YOU STICK AROUND?
WE COULD GO TO REHEARSAL TOGETHER.

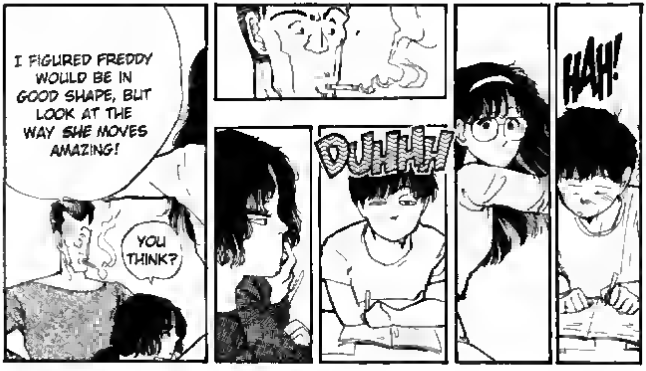

I'VE BEEN A FAN OF THE BONDAGE HORSE THEATER FOREVER, SO WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE HOLDING AUDITIONS..
I SAW YOU PERFORM LAST TIME, YOU KNOW
WHAT? YOU SAW THAT?


IT WAS AN EMERGENCY. USUALLY I JUST BUILD SETS...
BUT YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT ACTOR!

THEY TWO VERY FRIENDLY. YOU NO ANGRY SHE TAKE SUEKICHI?
FREDDY, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE SAYING "MIND YOUR OWN BEES-WAX"!?


NAHH...I'M BETTER AT ADMINISTRATIVE WORK AND BUILDING STUFF...
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TALENT.

YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO BE THIS STIFF
OWWA! OWWA!
KRK
SHOWING UP WITH TWO WOMEN AT ONCE. YOU DESERVE TO HAVE YOUR BACK BROKEN.
H--HOLD ON!
YOU'RE SLEEPING WITH AYA, AREN'T YOU? HOW MANY TIMES? HUH?
NONE OF YOUR BEES-WAX!
THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF STUD, DO YOU!?
THRAK!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DID I SNAP HIS SPINAL COLUMN?
TUMPA! TUMPA!
LOOKS LIKE A STOMPED COCKROACH!
TUMPA! TUMPA! TUMPA!


I FIGURED FREDDY WOULD BE IN GOOD SHAPE, BUT LOOK AT THE WAY SHE MOVES AMAZING!
YOU THINK?
DUHHH!
HAH!

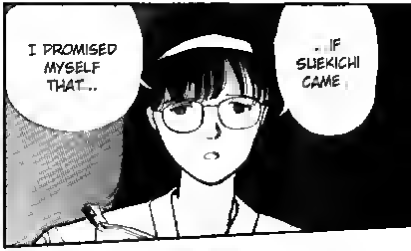
I MAY HAVE TO LECTURE HIM ABOUT NOT DATING OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY
Taboo!
Taboo!
HM?

WELL... GOOD-NIGHT.
UM.. G' NIGHT.
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS?
SHE FORGOT IT.
SHE'S LONG GONE
MAYBE I CAN CATCH HER.

HEY!
I'M SORRY ....

YOU MUST BE COMING BACK FOR THIS.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY IF FREDDY OR AYA BROUGHT IT...

I'M SORRY ...I DON'T UNDER-STAND .
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.


I PROMISED MYSELF THAT...
. IF SUEKICHI CAME

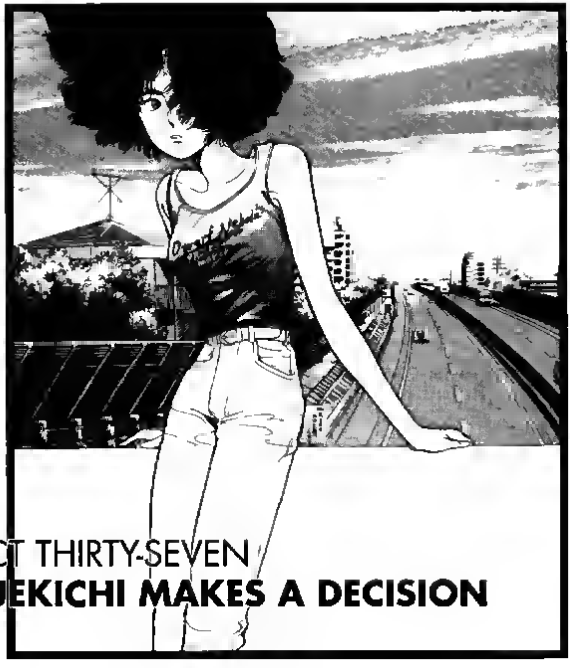
IF I CAME ....?

PLEASE TELL ME... IS AYA YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
N--- NOT EXACTLY.
BUT YOU LIVE TOGET-HER, DON'T YOU?
WELL, SHE COMES OVER A LOT. BUT WE DON'T LIVE TOGETHER SHE HAS HER REASONS FOR STAYING AWAY FROM HOME...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE IN A RELATION-SHIP OR ANYTHING...
THEN THERE'S STILL HOPE FOR ME?
HUH?

AS YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED... I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU FOR SOME TIME...
WELL... GOOD NIGHT

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, TONIGHT? YOU'RE SO SPACEY.
NOTHIN' —
SOMETHING HAPPENED WITH HER, DIDN'T IT?
NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX!

SUEKICHI! SOMETHING WRONG?
HE'S OFF IN HIS OWN WORLD.
YOU MIGHT WANNA PUT ON SOME UNDERWEAR.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S FALLING FOR HER! WELL--SHE'S A BIGGER FOOL THAN HE IS
THAT'S LAST NIGHT'S UPDATE.
DO WE HAVE TO BUG HIS APARTMENT?
WE MUST BE AS THOROUGH AS POSSIBLE
DON'T WORRY. EVERYTHING IS PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO PLAN



ACT THIRTY-SEVEN
SUEKICHI MAKES A DECISION

SUEKICHI..
YOU DID IT IN MY HOUSE, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!
I'M A GHOST. I CAN LOOK STRAIGHT INTO YOUR HEART

SETTING THAT ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT..
WHY HAVE YOU CALLED ON ME?
I DIDN'T CALL ON YOU

SO YOU WANT TO BREAK IT OFF WITH THIS WOMAN AND START A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT NEW GIRL?

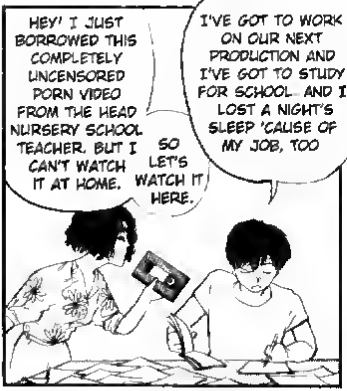
YES, YOU DID DEEP DOWN INSIDE ..
...YOU SOUGHT OUT SOMEONE TO WHOM YOU CAN BARE YOUR SOUL
W--WELL I...

DON'T SWEAT IT. I TOLD YOU, I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU ALREADY ANYWAY
I AM YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL, AFTER ALL..
HUH? REALLY?

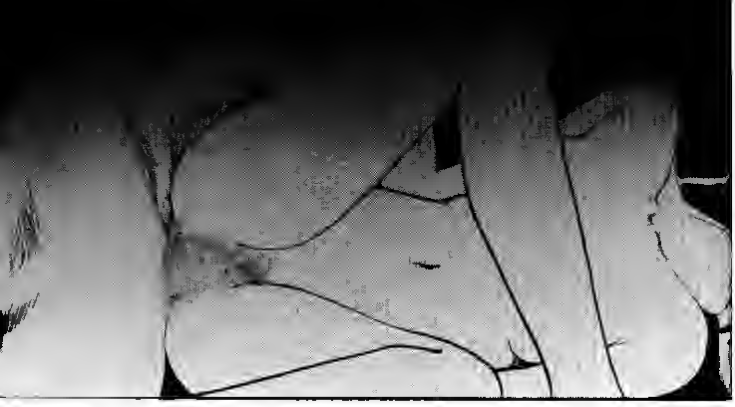
BUT SINCE THE FIRST ONE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR INHERITANCE, YOU'RE AFRAID TO JUST DUMP HER.
LIFE IS HARD
THAT'S NOT WHY...
LET'S SEE.. IF I WERE YOU...
IF YOU WERE ME... YES?
LET'S SEE.. HMM..
H-- HEY! DON'T GO!

WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU LOOK DAZED.

UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN.
AND NOW YOU'RE BABBLING NONSENSE


HEY! I JUST BORROWED THIS COMPLETELY UNCENSORED PORN VIDEO FROM THE HEAD NURSERY SCHOOL TEACHER. BUT I CAN'T WATCH IT AT HOME.
SO LET'S WATCH IT HERE.
I'VE GOT TO WORK ON OUR NEXT PRODUCTION AND I'VE GOT TO STUDY FOR SCHOOL. AND I LOST A NIGHT'S SLEEP 'CAUSE OF MY JOB, TOO

OH WELL GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO WATCH IT ALL BY MY LONESOME THEN
WATCHING PORN IN A GUY'S ROOM. CLASSY

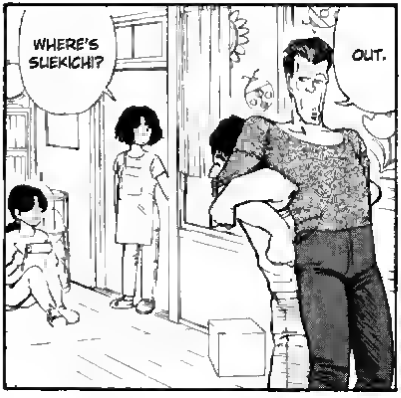


THIS IS AMAZING!
GOOD QUALITY DUB!

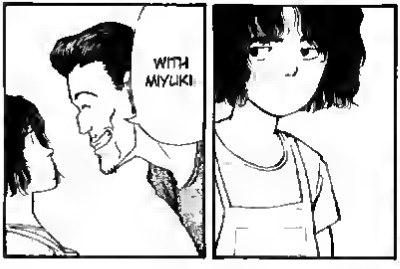
IS IT LIKE THAT WITH US?
DON'T COMPARE!
WERE YOU PEEKING?
NOPE
DO YOUR WORK!
YOU'RE HARD...
Q--QUIT IT!
YOU WANNA TRY WHAT THEY'RE DOING?
I--I TOLD YOU, I'M

...BUSY!
FINISH IT LATER
N-- NO.
BRRRING!
WHY NOT?
HEL--
B,D!
SO YOU WANNA KEEP GOING?
BRRRING!
B,D!
ANOTHER CRANK CA--
ZZZZZZZ

SHHHH
OH, WOW! IT'S SO BIG!
SUCK!
SUCK!
SUCK!
OH! OH! OH!
YES! LICK THIS!
WHAT KIND OF A GIRL WOULD INVITE A GUY TO WATCH A PORNO FLICK WITH HER..?
THIS IS THE LAST STRAW
SCNOOR
SIMULTANEOUS ORGASM!


WHERE'S SUEKICHI?
OUT.

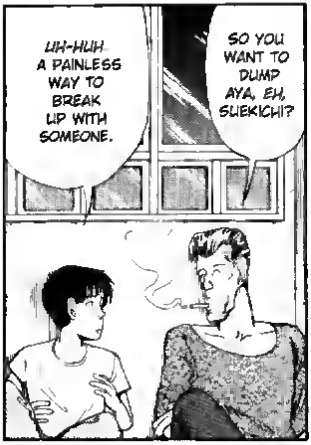
SORRY WE'RE LATE.
WE BROUGHT THE FLYERS
PRINTERS

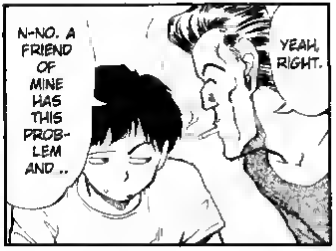

WITH MIYUKI.

WOW! THEY LOOK FAN-TASTIC

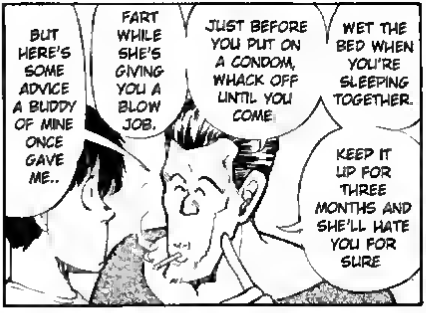
I ASKED HER TO HELP ME PICK THEM UP... BECAUSE HER FRIEND DID THE JOB FOR US AND ALL...
DID I ASK YOU?

HOW TO MAKE SOMEONE HATE YOU?


SO YOU WANT TO DUMP AYA, EH, SUEKICHI?
UH-HUH. A PAINLESS WAY TO BREAK UP WITH SOMEONE.


N-NO. A FRIEND OF MINE HAS THIS PROB-LEM AND ..
YEAH, RIGHT.

I WANTED TO CONSULT YOUR EXPERTISE ON THE MATTER..
YOU'RE TALKING TO A MAN WHO ONLY KNOWS PURE LOVE!


BUT HERE'S SOME ADVICE A BUDDY OF MINE ONCE GAVE ME..
FART WHILE SHE'S GIVING YOU A BLOW JOB.
JUST BEFORE YOU PUT ON A CONDOM, WHACK OFF UNTIL YOU COME.
WET THE BED WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING TOGETHER.
KEEP IT UP FOR THREE MONTHS AND SHE'LL HATE YOU FOR SURE

I'M SERI-OUS
SORRY, KIDDO, BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO DO IT WITHOUT GETTING UGLY.

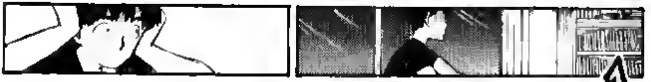
MAKE SURE TO TELL YOUR FRIEND ..
..THAT HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE!

WELL, GOOD-NIGHT...
HEY, MIYUKI...
HM?
WOULD YOU BE INTER-ESTED IN...
...HELPING ME ADDRESS OUR POSTCARDS?
IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY, THAT IS.
WHO CARES IF AYA'S HERE!
SURE!

WHAT THE--!?
HEY THERE.
PUSSY!
THEY INSISTED
HEY! NO TOUCHING YOURSELF OVER THERE!
UH..?
OH, OH, OH! DON'T STOP DON'T STOP!
TUMP TUMP TUMP
FORGET IT. C'MON EVERYONE LET'S SPLIT
YOU DON'T HAVE TO..

UNBE-
LIEV-
ABLE,
HUH?
AYA
BROUGHT
THIS
OVER.
OH,
YES!
LOOKS
INTEREST-
ING.
HUH
?
WATCH
ME!
I'VE
NEVER
SEEN ONE
OF THESE.
WHY DON'T
YOU LEAVE
IT ON?
STICK
IT IN!
C--
COULD
THIS
BE...
AH
AHH
AHHH!
..A
COME
ON?
OH, YES!
OH, BABY!

COMING OVER TO A GUY'S PLACE AND WATCHING A PORNO FLICK...
"I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU FOR A LONG TIME."
CAN YOU HAND ME THAT POSTCARD?
OH... TH--THIS ONE ISN'T READY YET.
SHE DOESN'T LOOK...
...UN-COM-FORT-ABLE.
FAPP
FAPP
MIYUKI!
GO FOR IT, SUEKICHI!
OH! I'M COMING!
WELL, THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM...



TO BE CONTINUED

DANCE till TOMORROW

Translation by YUJI ONJI
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

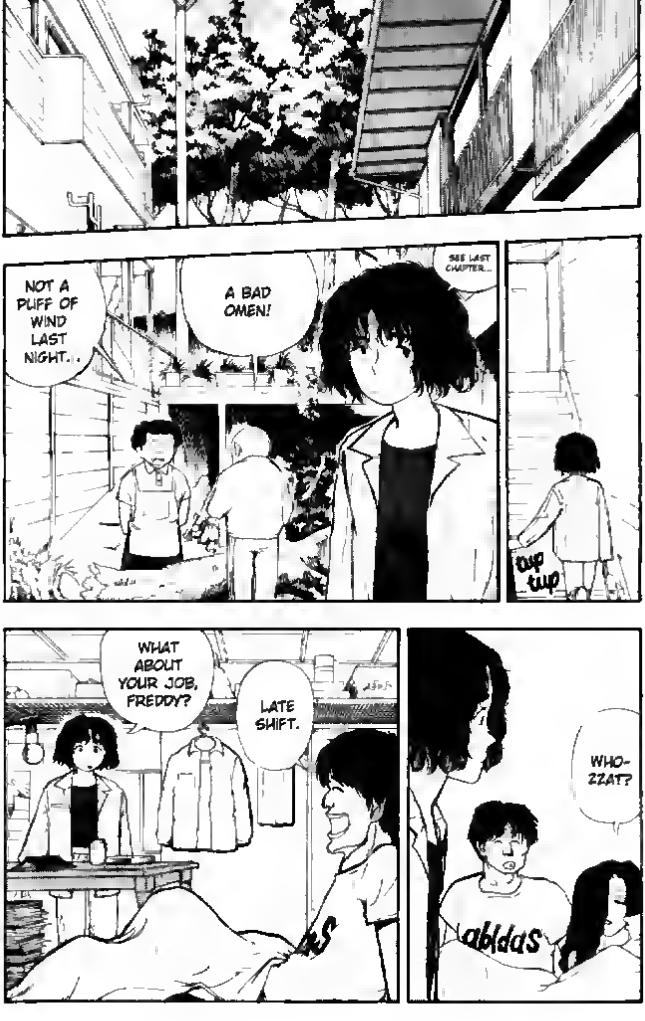
ACT THIRTY-EIGHT
INSTANT LOVERS

WHY DID YOU LEAVE LAST NIGHT?

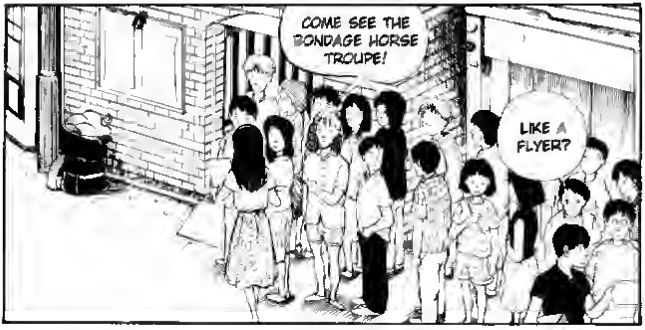
YOU LOST A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS UNCONTROLLABLE LIBIDO!
SHE ACTED PER MY INSTRUCTIONS.

SUEKICHI ALREADY DESIRES HER. THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH THINGS

WHEN THE MOMENT AND MOOD IS RIGHT, NATURE WILL TAKE ITS COURSE..


NOT A PUFF OF WIND LAST NIGHT...
A BAD OMEN!
SEE LAST CHAPTER...
tap tap
WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB, FREDDY?
LATE SHIFT.
WHO-ZZAT?
adidas

A GUEST?
I FIND HER LIE ON STREET. I CALL AND SHE COME
I'M NOT INTO CAT FIGHTS.
MEN ARE PIGS.
NO, NO!
BUT I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GIRL!
COME ON...
I LOVE YOU!
PAWS OFF, FREDDY!
SWIPSWIP
OH, YES! RIGHT THERE!
AHH...
SUEKICHI BUSY WITH FLYERS.
RESISTANCE IS FUTILE SIGH...


COME SEE THE BONDAGE HORSE TROUPE!
LIKE A FLYER?

THE HOUSE IS OPEN!
MAYBE WE SHOULD CHECK THIS PLAY OUT...
I HAVE TO WORK.

YOU'RE NOT GOING?
I HAVE SOME ERRANDS ANYWAY

HM?
VROOM

A SWAT TEAM!?
KRAK
KRAK

SOME YAKUZA HAVE AN OFFICE UPSTAIRS--- MAYBE IT'S A BUST!
D'YOU THINK THE THEATER WILL BE OKAY?
POLICE

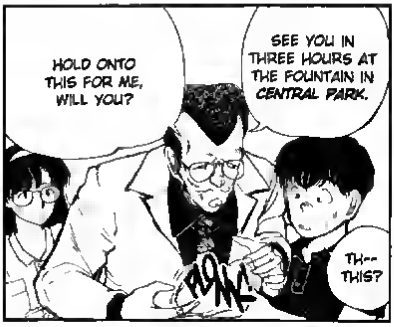
THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IS SO RUNDOWN...
LET'S GO...I'M SCARED!

HUH?
GRAB

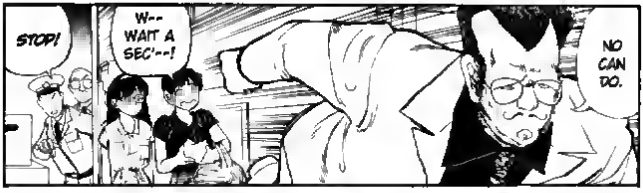
REFER TO VOL. 1 POLICE.
HEY-Y-Y, LONG TIME NO SEE! HOW YOU BEEN?
OH! H--HI.

THE COPS ARE BUSTING US
A CONTACT TIPPED ME OFF..
WAH!

HEY!
DAMN!


HOLD ONTO THIS FOR ME, WILL YOU?
SEE YOU IN THREE HOURS AT THE FOUNTAIN IN CENTRAL PARK.
TH--THIS?
PONK

WHOA!


STOP!
W--WAIT A SEC'--!
NO CAN DO.

YOU JUST SPOKE WITH HIM?
NO! NO!

YOU GOT A LEAD?
NARITA'S ON HIM.

DID YOU FIND IT?
NOT YET.

HUH?
HEY!
THIS WAY!

IF THEY CATCH US WITH A GUN, WE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE!
B-BUT HE FORCED IT ON US! WE DIDN'T HAVE TO RUN!
THIS WAY
Karaoke Nightly
GAH!
THERE'S A COP OVER THERE.
REALLY?
NOW WE'RE TRAPPED
BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP OFF THE STREETS ...
EEK!
HUH?
A MOUSE...
LET'S GO I'M START-ING TO FEEL CLAUS-TRO-PHOBIC
WE'LL GO OUT THE OTHER WAY.

SNEEK
DEAD END...
SORT OF...
D'YOU KNOW THAT YAKUZA GUY?
THIS IS GREAT. JUST GREAT.
PHEW! I SURE WORKED UP A GOOD SWEAT!
IT'S LIKE WE'RE IN THE MOVIES!

SOMETHING THE MATTER?
N-- NO...

TRMBL TRMBL TRMBL

ARE YOU COLD?
ACTUALLY, I'M A LITTLE WARM..
M-- MUST BE FROM ALL THAT RUNNING.

EH?

FSHAAAAAA
AGGGH !!

FSHAAAAA
SORRY
THE TRAPPED TAXI WAS IN THE BAD IS UNDER MY BARK!
AREN'T YOU CHILLY?
I'M WARM HERE.
WE SHOULD FIND SOME SHELTER ..
WHAT ABOUT THE COPS ?
TOTALLY LATE FOR WORK
WE COULD JUST CHUCK THIS.
BUT IF THAT YAKUZA GUY FINDS OUT.

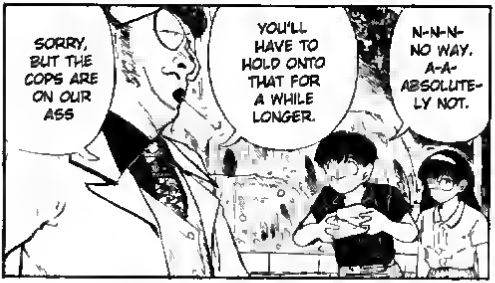
W-
WHAT'S
WRONG?
—
GRRM!
HUH?
I'M
COLD
HUG!
I'M
COLD.
B--
BUT...

SHAAA
THANKS, MR. YAKUZA!

AH!
SHIP
OUCH!
THOK
I--I'M SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY?
I-I'M FINE.

I--IT STOPPED RAINING. WE SHOULD GET GOING.

WHAT !?


SORRY, BUT THE COPS ARE ON OUR ASS
YOU'LL HAVE TO HOLD ONTO THAT FOR A WHILE LONGER.
N-N-N-NO WAY. A-A-ABSOLUTE-LY NOT.

COME ON...I'M ASKING YOU NICELY.
B-BUT..

AS A PERSON-AL FAVOR TO ME ..
N-NO WAY!

HOW ABOUT HER, THEN?
HUH?

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'LL TAKE IT.
EH?
I'M A FINE UP-STANDING CITIZEN, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW!
YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW.
I WON'T LET YOU FORCE IT ON HER.
THANKS, KID. I APPRECIATE IT.
KOF
THUNDER BURGER
HA-CHOO!
HOW COME YOU'RE SO LATE?
PUSSY!
TO BE CONTINUED